



ITUC International Trade Union Confederation  
CSI Confédération syndicale internationale  
CSI Confederación Sindical Internacional  
IGB Internationaler Gewerkschaftsbund

**Ayuba Wabba**

President  
Président  
Präsident  
Presidente

**Sharan Burrow**

General Secretary  
Secrétaire générale  
Generalsekretärin  
Secretaria General

**Mr. António Guterres**

**Secretary-General  
United Nations  
Executive Office of the Secretary-General  
S-3800, United Nations Secretariat Bldg  
New York, NY 10017**

Email: [Antonio.guterres@un.org](mailto:Antonio.guterres@un.org)

HTUR

16 December 2021

**Call for immediate UN action to stop the violence and ensure respect for democracy and human rights in Myanmar**

Dear Secretary General,

Further to our letter dated 11 February 2021, the International Trade Union Confederation is appalled to see that the military junta is allowed to further escalate its brutal repression against the people, while UN agencies, funds and programmes are lending legitimacy to the illegal murderous military junta seeking different forms of cooperation and the international community fails to effectively implement economic sanctions. We welcome the decision of the UN General Assembly to postpone a decision on the accreditation of the junta, but it is now urgent that the National Unity Government be recognised as the only legitimate representative of the people of Myanmar. Recent events demonstrate that the military junta in no way upholds or accepts the obligations in the UN Charter.

Since 1 February, the military have perpetrated systematic and widespread human rights abuses. Recently, however, the military has clearly intensified its violent crackdown on civilians with indiscriminate airstrikes and artillery barrages, widespread road blocks, village raids and house searches and frequent reports of brutal killings, beatings, mass arrests and disappearances forced by soldiers. On 7 December, 11 civilians from Don Taw Village, Salingyi Township, Sagaing were burned to death by the State Administration Council on Dec 7th 2021. Five of them were under the age of 18. On 15 December, 200 military junta troops raided Lay Kay Kaw in Myawaddy Karen State where many civilian resistance groups, including trade union activists, found refuge under the peace agreement signed between the Karen National Union (KNU) and the military in 2014. Dozens of democracy activists are already arrested. Fighting has escalated and the junta is using artillery to fire upon civilian residences, targeting who they claim the People's Defense Forces and the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) leaders.

It is clear that there is no sign of any efforts by the military authorities to stop these violations nor implement previous recommendations to tackle impunity and security sector reform. Today, no government or institution can justify any sort of relationship or links with the junta. No business can justify any operations or business with Myanmar in the current context. No economic activity is currently possible in Myanmar without contributing to the perpetuation of a major human rights crisis.

We support the call by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, for urgent action to end the human rights catastrophe and the urgent need for strong accountability measures. We call on the UN and governments throughout the world to redouble efforts at this critical time to:

- Publicly condemn the coup d'état and the violence of the junta in Myanmar;
- Not recognise or appease the State Administration Council or military in any way and establish relations with the National Unity Government and its structures;
- Request that the United Nations General Assembly recognises the National Unity Government of Myanmar;
- Effectively implement the UN Security Council sanctions against the military leaders;
- Immediately cease all military cooperation with and arms sales to Myanmar;
- Suspend all Official Development Assistance (ODA) going through the government;
- Only channel humanitarian assistance through UN bodies and international humanitarian organisations to support the work of the National Unity Government and the Civil Disobedience Movement;
- Implement comprehensive economic sanctions to stop any and all revenue to the military;
- Trace supply chains of companies to ensure full application of economic sanctions;
- Ask foreign companies operating in, or sourcing from, Myanmar to provide support to workers where operations are curtailed and to support and protect workers protesting the coup;
- Call on International financial institutions to immediately freeze disbursements and new loans;
- Expose and hold to account all lobby firms employed by Myanmar's military;
- Protect Myanmar's diplomatic staff abroad;
- Support and assist all refugees from Myanmar's military persecution.

We stand in solidarity with Myanmar's workers and with the people of Myanmar and pay tribute to those brave workers taking action to reject the military takeover.

We call for an immediate intervention of your good offices to ensure that the people's vote is respected and the suffering of the people of Myanmar ends now.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. B.', written in a cursive style.

General Secretary