

BURMA: Diaspora, CBOs/CSOs, NGOs Urge President Biden to Implement a Coordinated Response Against the Burmese Military Junta

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 200500

Washington, DC – February 1, 2022

Dear President Biden,

We, the undersigned 233 diaspora, CBOs/CSOs and nonprofit organizations from 17 countries, write to urge your Administration to implement a coordinated and comprehensive response to the Burmese military's shocking and escalating violence since the February 1, 2021, attempted coup. The Burmese military's systematic violence has resulted in extensive loss of life, daily human rights violations and the forced displacement of tens of thousands, especially in ethnic areas. On the one-year anniversary of the military's illegal coup, we call upon you to treat the situation with the urgency and decisive action it demands by not only publicly condemning the ongoing brutality across Burma but also implementing a multi-step response plan, which includes coordinating a global arms embargo and sanctioning the military's oil and gas revenues.

Most crucially, a global arms embargo is necessary to prevent the military from accessing the artillery and air strike equipment that it currently utilizes to indiscriminately attack civilians. This relentless campaign of terror is funded by key oil and gas revenues that allow the military to continue paying their personnel and purchasing deadly weaponry. Thus, cutting off the military's profits from oil and gas revenues is necessary to strangle a crucial source of funding for the brutal campaigns and militarization currently seen in several ethnic states. Third, supplying cross-border aid is imperative given the countless internationally displaced persons (IDPs) who have been forced to seek refuge in neighboring Thailand, where they shelter in unsanitary, inhumane, and insecure conditions. Lastly, to show true solidarity with efforts to resist the junta's illegal rule, the [National Unity Government](#) must be recognized as Burma's only governing body to effectively invalidate any power commandeered by the State Administration Council. The primary means to ensure genuine democracy in Burma is to recognize the legitimacy of the political will of the Burmese people and to defund and delegitimize the Burmese military because of what they are: illegitimate usurpers and unconscionable perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

While we thank you for your support thus far, namely the [targeted sanctioning](#) of various military leaders and state-owned enterprises, there is more that must be done given the military's escalating violence, particularly in ethnic areas. In a horrifying and inhumane attack, 35 villagers in Karenni State were [burned alive](#) on Christmas Eve, with 42 villagers still reported missing. While the real number is likely larger, reports estimate that more than half of the entire Karenni State population of 300,000 has fled violence since the start of the coup. On January 11, the Burmese military murdered [10 civilians](#) in western Chin state after arresting and detaining them in days prior. Villagers in the region stated that the deaths were part of a larger trend of militarization and clashes since the military increased its presence in the area. According to the Karen Peace Support Network, the estimated number of IDPs is over 100,000 IDPs in Karen state caused by the military's [heavy shelling](#) in September 2021 that indiscriminately fired into civilian villages and property.

Since the start of the coup, over [320,900 people](#) have been internally displaced, adding to the 340,000 IDPs that existed before the coup. The Burmese military continues to indiscriminately attack, arrest and imprison

civilians, including children, throughout ethnic areas. On December 29, 2021 in Kachin State, the military killed 14 civilians and prevented volunteers from collecting their bodies. Most recently, on January 5, 2022, an infant and several other children were [injured](#) during clashes instigated by the Burmese military in Shan State. In late October 2021, the military abducted 19 civilians in Shan State and subsequently used them as [human shields](#). Two were later tortured to death by the military. In Mon and Rakhine States, while there may not be intense clashes or major headlines, rights abuses are still perpetrated by the Burmese military. Since November 2021, Mon State has experienced a total of 60 arbitrary arrests in Dawei region alone. Rakhine State has seen numerous [arbitrary arrests](#), with eight people charged in late 2021 for alleged connections to anti-junta groups. The persecution of the Rohingya persists in the state, with over 100 Rohingya [arrested](#) for attempting to migrate to Malaysia in December 2021. Estimates from Mon State, Karen State and Dawei alone [report](#) a total of 2,384 arrests and 72 deaths since the start of the coup. [Nationwide](#), 1,507 documented deaths have been directly attributed to the Burmese military's slaughter of coup opponents and perceived enemies, though many more are unconfirmed, particularly in recent weeks as airstrikes indiscriminately strafe populated areas. At least 8,899 have been detained, 664 sentenced to prison and 45 sentenced to death.

The condemnations from the United States and other countries, to which the Burmese military remain proudly impervious, cannot help with Burma's current dire situation. Condemnations cannot hold the military to account for its violations of international law, including war crimes and crimes against humanity, against the people of Burma, in particular ethnic and religious minorities. Instead, failure to take decisive action over the past year has emboldened the Burmese military regime to continue and escalate its brutal attacks. The U.S. and international community's lack of coordinated, sustained action since the attempted coup has helped create a sense of impunity which has led the military to believe it can keep committing human rights violations, thereby encouraging more attacks and tacitly recognizing the military coup.

We urge your Administration to take the following actions:

1. Coordinate a comprehensive global arms embargo on Burma to halt arms sales to the Burma military.
2. Impose immediate targeted sanctions on the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and the Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank to cut off a crucial revenue source to the Burma military.
3. Provide immediate cross-border assistance, directly to local civil society organizations, particularly those working in ethnic areas and conflict zones.
4. Recognize and engage with the National Unity Government as the legitimate government of Burma instead of the illegal military junta;

Our families, relatives and loved ones are suffering increasing brutality at the hands of the Burma military. It is imperative to exert all possible pressure through every available means, including multilateral, regional and bilateral engagement, to ensure that the military immediately stops offensives throughout the country, allows humanitarian assistance in impacted areas and immediately and unconditionally releases all arbitrarily detained protesters and political prisoners. The first anniversary of the coup presents a meaningful opportunity for your Administration to implement a multi-step, coordinated plan to address the Burma military's heinous crimes and fully support the democratic will of the people of Burma.

Sincerely,

The undersigned organizations:

- 1 African Great Lakes Action Network, TN

- 2 Albany Karen community, Albany, NY
- 3 All Arakan Students' and Youths' Congress, Burma
- 4 Alternative Solutions for Rural Communities (ASORCOM), Burma
- 5 ALTSEAN-Burma (Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma), Thailand
- 6 American for Rohingya, OR
- 7 American Rohingya Advocacy/American Rohingya Advocacy, TX
- 8 Arizona Kachin Community, AZ
- 9 Association of Human Rights Defenders and Promoters-HRDP, Burma
- 10 Athan Freedom of Expression Activist Organization, Thailand
- 11 Australian Karen Organisation, Australia
- 12 Baptist World Alliance / Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, MS
- 13 Burma Task Force, NY
- 14 Burmese American Community Institute (BACI), IN
- 15 Burmese American Millennials
- 16 Burmese Democratic Forces
- 17 Calgary Karen Community Association (CKCA), Canada
- 18 California Kachin Community, CA
- 19 California Karen Youth Forum, Oakland, CA
- 20 Calvary Burmese Church, DC
- 21 Campaign for a New Myanmar, DC
- 22 Canadian Burma Ethnic Nationalities Organization (CBENO), Canada
- 23 Chin Community of Indiana, IN
- 24 Chin Leaders of Tomorrow (CLT), IN
- 25 Crane Center for Mass Atrocity Prevention, IN
- 26 Dallas Kachin Community, TX
- 27 Darfur and Beyond, AZ
- 28 DEEKU, the Karenni Community of TX
- 29 Democracy, Peace and Women's Organization, Burma
- 30 Dr. T. Thanbyar Foundation, Canada
- 31 Edmonton Karen Community Youth Organization, Canada
- 32 Ethnic Community Development Forum, Burma
- 33 European Karen Network, Norway
- 34 Florida Kachin Community, FL
- 35 Free Burma Action Bay/USA/Global
- 36 Free Myanmar Campaign USA, IN
- 37 Freedom for Burma
- 38 Freedom, Justice, Equality for Myanmar
- 39 Future Light Center, Burma
- 40 Future Thanlwin
- 41 Georgia Kachin Community, GA

- 42 Global Justice Center, NY
- 43 Global Karen Investment Group, Canada
- 44 Global Movement for Myanmar Democracy (GM4MD)
- 45 Grassroots Movement for Burma, IN
- 46 Houston Kachin Community, TX
- 47 Human Rights Foundation of Monland, Thailand
- 48 Infinite Burma, MD
- 49 International Campaign for Rohingya, DC
- 50 International Karen Organization, Australia
- 51 International Ministries (American Baptist Foreign Mission Society), PA
- 52 Iowa Kachin Community, IA
- 53 Jewish World Watch, CA
- 54 Kachin American Community (Portland – Vancouver)
- 55 Kachin Community of Indiana, IN
- 56 Kachin Community of USA
- 57 Kachin national organization USA, TX
- 58 Kachin Refugee Committee, Malaysia
- 59 Kansas Karenni community, KS
- 60 Karen American Association of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI
- 61 Karen Association of Huron, SD
- 62 Karen Baptist Churches in the USA, MN
- 63 Karen Community Association UK
- 64 Karen Community in Norway
- 65 Karen Community in South Carolina, Columbia, SC
- 66 Karen Community in Syracuse, NY
- 67 Karen Community in the Netherlands (KCNL)
- 68 Karen Community of Akron, OH
- 69 Karen Community of Austin, Texas
- 70 Karen Community of Canada (KCC)
- 71 Karen Community of Charlotte, NC
- 72 Karen Community of Czech Republic
- 73 Karen Community of Finland
- 74 Karen Community of Georgia, GA
- 75 Karen Community of Greensboro, NC
- 76 Karen Community of Hamilton, Canada
- 77 Karen Community of Iowa, IA
- 78 Karen Community of Ireland
- 79 Karen Community of Israel
- 80 Karen Community of Kansas City, KS & MO
- 81 Karen Community of Kitchener & Waterloo, Canada

- 82 Karen Community of Leamington, Canada
- 83 Karen Community of Lethbridge, Canada
- 84 Karen Community of London, Canada
- 85 Karen Community of Louisville, KY
- 86 Karen Community of Minnesota, MN
- 87 Karen Community of New Bern, NC
- 88 Karen Community of North Carolina, NC
- 89 Karen Community of Ottawa, Canada
- 90 Karen Community of Regina, Canada
- 91 Karen Community of Rochester, Rochester, NY
- 92 Karen Community of Saskatoon, Canada
- 93 Karen Community of South Carolina, SC
- 94 Karen Community of Thunderbay, Canada
- 95 Karen Community of Toronto, Canada
- 96 Karen Community of Windsor, Canada
- 97 Karen Community of Winnipeg, Canada
- 98 Karen Community Society of British Columbia (KCSBC)
- 99 Karen Environmental Social Action Network, Thailand/Burma
- 100 Karen Finland Culture Association
- 101 Karen Human Rights Group, Burma/Thailand
- 102 Karen Organization of America, NC
- 103 Karen Organization of Illinois, IL
- 104 Karen Peace Support Network, Thailand/Burma
- 105 Karen Society of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY
- 106 Karen Society of Nebraska, NE
- 107 Karen Student Association, Omaha, NE
- 108 Karen Student United Association, St. Cloud, MN
- 109 Karen Swedish Community (KSC)
- 110 Karen Thai Group, Thailand
- 111 Karen Women's Organization, Thailand
- 112 Karen Youth Education Pathways, DC
- 113 Karen Youth Networks, Burma
- 114 Karen Youth of Norway
- 115 Karen Youth of Toronto, Canada
- 116 Karen Youth Organization, Thailand
- 117 Karen Youth UK (KYUK)
- 118 Karenni Baptist Convention of America
- 119 Karenni Community of Amarillo, TX
- 120 Karenni Community of Arizona, AZ
- 121 Karenni Community of Arkansas, AZ

- 122 Karenni Community of Austin, TX
- 123 Karenni Community of Bowling Green, KY
- 124 Karenni Community of Buffalo, NY
- 125 Karenni Community of Chicago, IL
- 126 Karenni Community of Colorado, CO
- 127 Karenni Community of Connecticut, CT
- 128 Karenni Community of Dallas, TX
- 129 Karenni community of Des Moines, IA
- 130 Karenni Community of Florida, FL
- 131 Karenni Community of Fort Wayne, IN
- 132 Karenni Community of Fort Worth, TX
- 133 Karenni Community of Georgia, GA
- 134 Karenni Community of Grand Rapid, MI
- 135 Karenni Community of Houston, TX
- 136 Karenni Community of Idaho, ID
- 137 Karenni Community of Indianapolis, IN
- 138 Karenni Community of Lansing, MI
- 139 Karenni Community of Louisville, KY
- 140 Karenni Community of Massachusetts, MA
- 141 Karenni community of Minnesota, MN
- 142 Karenni Community of Missouri, MO
- 143 Karenni Community of New Jersey, NJ
- 144 Karenni Community of North Carolina, NC
- 145 Karenni Community of Portland, OR
- 146 Karenni Community of Rockford, IL
- 147 Karenni Community of San Antonio, TX
- 148 Karenni Community of Sioux Falls, SD
- 149 Karenni Community of Utah, UT
- 150 Karenni Community of Utica, NY
- 151 Karenni Community of Washington, WA
- 152 Karenni Community of Wisconsin, WI
- 153 Karenni Education Department (KnED)
- 154 Karenni Evergreen (KEG)
- 155 Karenni Federation of Australia
- 156 Karenni Health Department (KnHD)
- 157 Karenni Human Rights Group, Burma
- 158 Karenni Legal and Human Rights Center (KnLHRC)
- 159 Karenni Literacy and Culture Development Committee (KLCDC)
- 160 Karenni National College, Burma
- 161 Karenni National Society (KNS-Japan)

- 162 Karenni National Women's Organization, Burma
- 163 Karenni National Youth Organization (KNYO)
- 164 Karenni Refugee Committee (KnRC)
- 165 Karenni Social Welfare and Development Centre (KSWDC)
- 166 Karenni Society Finland RY
- 167 Karenni Society New Zealand
- 168 Karenni Society of Canada
- 169 Karenni Society of Omaha, NE
- 170 Karenni Student Union (KSU)
- 171 Karenni Talkshow-KTS, USA
- 172 Karenni Youth of Minnesota, MN
- 173 Karenni-American Association
- 174 Karenni-American Catholic Association
- 175 Kayah State Student Union (KSSU)
- 176 Kayahlilaykloe, Austin, MN
- 177 Kayahliphu Youth – KLY
- 178 Kayan New Generation Youth (KNGY)
- 179 Kayan Women Organization (KyWO)
- 180 Keng Tung Youth, Burma
- 181 Kentucky Kachin Community
- 182 KnA-Kay Phoe Du prgm
- 183 Korea Karen Organization
- 184 Korea Karen Youth Organization
- 185 LA Rohingya Association/America Rohingya Justice Network, CA
- 186 Louisiana Kachin Community, LA
- 187 Malaysia Karen Organization
- 188 Maryland Kachin Community, MD
- 189 Metta Campaign Mandalay, Burma
- 190 Michigan Kachin Community, MI
- 191 Milwaukee Myanmar Christian Church, WI
- 192 Minnesota Kachin Community, MN
- 193 Mon Refugee Organization, Malaysia
- 194 Myanmar Advocacy Coalition
- 195 Nationalities Alliance of Burma USA
- 196 NeT Organization, Burma
- 197 Network for Human Rights Documentation-Burma (ND-Burma), Thailand
- 198 Never Again Coalition, OR
- 199 New York Kachin Community
- 200 New Zealand Karen Association
- 201 No Business with Genocide, DC

- 202 Noble Justice Association, Burma
- 203 North Carolina Kachin Community, NC
- 204 Olive organization, Burma
- 205 Omaha Kachin Community, NE
- 206 Organization Of Karenni Development Malaysia,
- 207 Oversea Karen Organization Japan
- 208 Pennsylvania Kachin Community, PA
- 209 Progressive Voice, Thailand
- 210 Rochester Karenni Community, NY
- 211 Rohingya National League, CA
- 212 Rohingya Women Webinar Series, Canada
- 213 Rohingya Youth Association (RYA), Burma
- 214 Save and Care Organization for Women at Border Areas
- 215 Shan MATA, Burma
- 216 South Carolina Kachin Community, SC
- 217 Southern Youth development Organization
- 218 Students for Free Burma, CA
- 219 Support the Democracy Movement in Burma
- 220 Synergy-Social Harmony Organization, Burma
- 221 Ta'ang Legal Aid, Burma
- 222 Ta'ang Student Youth Union, Burma
- 223 Tennessee Kachin Communit, TN
- 224 The Sound of Hope, AL
- 225 U.S. Advocacy Coalition for Myanmar (USACM), VA
- 226 U.S. Campaign for Burma
- 227 Unitarian Universalist Association, NY
- 228 United States Chin Coalition (USCC), IN
- 229 Utica Karen Community, NY
- 230 Virginia Kachin Community, VA
- 231 Washington Kachin Community, WA
- 232 West Virginia Kachin Community, WV
- 233 Women for Women Foundation, Burma
- 234 Women's League of Burma, Thailand/Burma