



BURMA: Joint Letter from 190 Organizations to President Biden Calling for Sanctions on Companies Supplying the Burmese Military with Jet Fuel

May 4, 2023

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

Dear President Biden,

We, the undersigned 190 organizations, are shocked, horrified, and appalled by the Burmese military's intentional targeting of civilians on April 11, an unprovoked aerial attack that killed more than 170 civilians, including at least 40 children. We urge you to take and coordinate action immediately and implement harsher sanctions that will effectively hold the military junta accountable for this blatant violation of international law and cut off its fuel and weaponry supply.

On Tuesday, April 11, the military junta launched a [devastating aerial attack](#) in Kanbalu township, Sagaing region. Early that morning, more than 300 people had gathered for the opening of a new administration office. The [junta's military aircraft bombed](#) Kanbalu as a Russian-made Mi35 helicopter fired into the ceremony while circling the village. Military planes continued to fly over the village, making it extremely difficult for first responders to enter the area to assist the injured and recover the bodies of victims. More than 170 civilians were killed during the attack, with at least 30 injured and 20 more in critical condition. Of the 170 casualties, at least 27 were women and 38 were children.

These aerial bombardments are not exclusive to Sagaing region, but are happening throughout Burma at an alarming and increasing rate. In October 2022, the junta [killed over 80 civilians](#) in Kachin state after intentionally bombing an outdoor concert. In early January 2023, the military carried out [deadly airstrikes](#) that killed five civilians, including a mother and 2-year-old daughter in Karen state. According to recent documentation, at least 31 airstrikes have been carried out in Karen State in 2023 alone, killing at least 12 villagers, including children. On March 20, the junta launched [multiple airstrikes](#) in Kyaukgyi and Shwekyin townships, Bago region, forcing more than 3,000 civilians to flee their homes. On March 30, two Burmese military jets [targeted](#) a local clinic and a community-run school in Htee Hpoe Ka Loe village, Karenni state. In retaliation for suffering

devastating losses during conflict with ethnic armed organizations, the military launched [airstrikes](#) on two separate villages in Shwegu township, Kachin state on March 30. The junta also launched an [aerial attack](#) targeting a high school in Falam township, Chin state on April 10, which left nine civilians dead. To gain control of the country, the junta is becoming increasingly reliant on aerial bombings and attacks targeting civilians.

To prevent these devastating attacks, it is imperative that the United States lead coordinated action within the international community to cut off the junta's ability to purchase jet fuel and supplies. While the United States has already [announced](#) sanctions targeting Asia Sun Group (a major fuel supplier) and other military individuals, current sanctions only impact entities in Burma and entirely neglect the international corporations that are known allies of the junta. With these allies, the junta is able to easily create proxy companies that serve as a loophole to evade sanctions. Targeted sanctions must have harsher penalties and stronger enforcement. Otherwise, these international allies will continue to sell and transport jet fuel to the junta which will be used to target and kill civilians.

We recognize and thank you for the actions you have taken thus far to support the people of Burma. However, as organizations that have connections, indirect and direct, with those on the ground in Burma, we know that the United States needs to do more. Please regard the junta's April 11 aerial attack as a devastating warning of what is to come for the people of Burma should the military continue to have unchecked access to fuel and other supplies. The United States holds the power and influence to create change - please ensure that this power is not wasted.

We ask for the specific actions below:

1. Sanction international companies that sell jet fuel supplies to the military junta. While smaller Burmese entities can be easily replaced, major international entities would face severe repercussions and serious obstacles to their ability to supply the military.
2. Bar any entity from providing shipping insurance or shipping services to companies selling jet fuel to the military, its allies or affiliated companies. The most effective way of disrupting the flow of jet fuel is to prevent ships from picking up cargo or accessing ports by withholding insurance and services.
3. Impose sanctions on the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), as the [European Union has already done](#). Sanctions on MOGE itself, not just on MOGE officials, would cut off one of the junta's largest revenue streams and have the greatest impact on stopping the junta's campaign of lethal violence in the country.
4. Hold the Burmese junta accountable for their clear violations of international law and active war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity, and mass atrocities.

Also CC: Secretary Blinken, Counselor Chollet, and National Security Council

Sincerely,

Signatories:

1. All Arakan Students' & Youths' Congress
2. All Young Burmese League
3. American Baptist Churches USA
4. Anti Dictatorship in Burma - DC Metro Area
5. Arakan Rohingya National Union
6. Arizona Kachin Community
7. ASEAN Federation of Cardiology Council
8. Assistance Association for Political Prisoners
9. Association for Human Rights Defenders and Promoters
10. Athan - Freedom of Expression Activist Organization
11. Australian Centre for International Justice
12. Australian Karen Organisation Inc
13. Baptist World Alliance
14. Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
15. BETTER BURMA
16. Burma Action Ireland
17. Burma Advocacy Group
18. Burma Campaign UK
19. Burma Human Rights Network
20. Burma Medical Association
21. Burmese American Community Institute
22. Burmese Community in Jamaica
23. Burmese Community Support Group
24. Calgary Karen Community Association
25. California Kachin Community
26. Campaign for a New Myanmar
27. Chin Community of Indiana
28. Community Rebuilding Centre
29. Coordination Team for Emergency Relief (Karenni)
30. CRPH/NUG Support Group QLD
31. Dallas Kachin Community
32. DEEKU-Karenni Community of Amarillo, TX
33. Democracy, Peace and Women's Organization
34. Doopalaya Human Rights Defenders Group
35. Edmonton Karen Community Youth Organization
36. Equality Myanmar
37. Florida Kachin Community
38. Fortify Rights
39. Free Burma Campaign (South Africa)

40. Future Light Center
41. Future Thanlwin
42. Georgia Kachin Community
43. GMSR-Korea 글로벌 미얀마 봉혁명
44. Grass-root People
45. Houston Kachin Community
46. Human Rights Educators Network
47. Human Rights Foundation of Monland
48. Institute of Asian Democracy
49. Interim University of Medicine 2-Yangon
50. International Campaign for the Rohingya
51. International Karen Organisation
52. International State Crime Initiative
53. Iowa Kachin Community
54. Japan Myanmar Help Network (comprising of over 40 youth groups in Japan)
55. Jewish National Fund
56. Jubilee Campaign USA
57. Kachin Alliance
58. Kachin American Baptist Association
59. Kachin American Community (Portland – Vancouver)
60. Kachin Community of Indiana
61. Kachin Community of USA
62. Kachin Contextual Analysis Team
63. Kachin National Organization USA
64. Kachin Women's Association Thailand
65. Kansas Karenni Community, KS
66. Karen American Association of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI
67. Karen Association of Huron, SD
68. Karen Community in Syracuse, NY
69. Karen Community of Akron, OH
70. Karen Community of Canada
71. Karen Community of Czech Republic
72. Karen Community of Finland
73. Karen Community of Hamilton
74. Karen Community of Iowa, IA
75. Karen Community of Ireland
76. Karen Community of Israel
77. Karen Community of Kansas City, KS & MO
78. Karen Community of Kitchener & Waterloo
79. Karen Community of Leamington K
80. Karen Community of Lethbridge
81. Karen Community of London
82. Karen Community of Minnesota, MN
83. Karen Community of Ottawa
84. Karen Community of Regina

85. Karen Community of Rochester, Rochester, NY
86. Karen Community of Saskatoon
87. Karen Community of Thunderbay
88. Karen Community of Toronto
89. Karen Community of Windsor
90. Karen Community of Winnipeg
91. Karen Community Society of British Columbia (KCSBC)
92. Karen Human Rights Group
93. Karen Organization of America
94. Karen Organization of Illinois, IL
95. Karen Peace Support Network
96. Karen Thai Group
97. Karen Youth Education Pathways
98. Karen Youth Networks
99. Karen Youth of Norway
100. Karen Youth of Toronto
101. Karen Youth Organization
102. Karenni Civil Society Network
103. Karenni Community of Arizona, AZ
104. Karenni Community of Arkansas, AK
105. Karenni Community of Austin, TX
106. Karenni Community of Bowling Green, KY
107. Karenni Community of Buffalo, NY
108. Karenni Community of Chicago, IL
109. Karenni Community of Colorado, CO
110. Karenni Community of Dallas, TX
111. Karenni Community of Des Moines, IA
112. Karenni Community of Florida, FL
113. Karenni Community of Fort Worth, TX
114. Karenni Community of Georgia, GA
115. Karenni Community of Houston, TX
116. Karenni Community of Idaho, ID
117. Karenni Community of Indianapolis, IN
118. Karenni Community of Massachusetts, MA
119. Karenni Community of Michigan, MI
120. Karenni Community of Minnesota, MN
121. Karenni Community of Missouri, MO
122. Karenni Community of North Carolina, NC
123. Karenni Community of Portland, OR
124. Karenni Community of Rockford, IL
125. Karenni Community of San Antonio, TX
126. Karenni Community of Sioux Falls, SD
127. Karenni Community of Utah, UT
128. Karenni Community of Utica, NY
129. Karenni Community of Washington, WA

130. Karenni Community of Wisconsin, WI
131. Karenni Human Rights Organization
132. Karenni Society of Omaha, NE
133. Karenni-American Association
134. Keng Tung Youth
135. Kentucky Kachin Community
136. Korea Karen Organization
137. Korea Karen Youth Organization
138. Louisiana Kachin Community
139. Mae Tao Clinic
140. Maryland Kachin Community
141. Mekong Watch
142. Metta Campaign
143. Michigan Kachin Community
144. Migrant, Immigrant & Refugee Rights Alliance
145. Minnesota Kachin Community
146. Mogok Federal School
147. Myanmar Baptist Churches, USA
148. Myanmar Campaign Network
149. Myanmar Christian Church of Metro Chicago
150. Myanmar People Alliance (Shan State)
151. National Health Service
152. National League for Democracy
153. Network for Human Rights Documentation-Burma
154. Never Again Coalition
155. New International hope for Refugee & Immigrants
156. New York Kachin Community
157. No Business With Genocide
158. North Carolina Kachin Community
159. NUG/CRPH Support group
160. Nyan Lynn Thit Analytica
161. Olive Organization
162. Omaha Kachin Community
163. Oversea Karen Organization Japan
164. Pa-O Women's Union
165. Peace and Justice Committee of CBCUSA
166. Pennsylvania Kachin Community
167. Progressive Voice
168. Rohingya Students Network -RSN
169. Rohingya Youths for Legal Action
170. RW Welfare Society
171. Save and Care Organization for Ethnic Women at Border Areas
172. Save Myanmar - USA
173. Shan MATA
174. South Carolina Kachin Community

175. Southern Youth Development Organization
176. STAND
177. Synergy - Social Harmony Organization
178. Ta'ang Women's Organization
179. Tanintharyi MATA
180. Telekyanmar, MOH, NUG
181. Tennessee Kachin Community
182. The Sentry
183. Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
184. United States Campaign for Burma
185. Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania
186. Virginia Kachin Community
187. Washington Kachin Community
188. West Virginia Kachin Community
189. Women's League of Burma
190. မြန်မာပြည်လွတ်မြောက်ရေးလှုပ်ရှားမှုကော်မတီ