

## **OPEN LETTER TO ASEAN LEADERS AND THE DIALOGUE PARTNERS**

### **To: ASEAN Leaders**

H.E. Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Prime Minister of Brunei  
H.E. Hun Manet, Prime Minister of Cambodia  
H.E. Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia  
H.E. Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of Laos  
H.E. Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia  
H.E. Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr., President of the Philippines  
H.E. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore  
H.E. Srettha Thavisin, Prime Minister of Thailand  
H.E. Pham Minh Chinh, Prime Minister of Vietnam

### **CC: ASEAN Dialogue Partners**

H.E. Will Nankervis, Ambassador of Australia to ASEAN  
H.E. Vicky Singmin, Ambassador of Canada to ASEAN  
H.E. Deng Xijun, Ambassador of China to ASEAN  
H.E. Igor Driesmans, Ambassador of the European Union to ASEAN  
H.E. Shri Jayant N. Khobragade, Ambassador of India to ASEAN  
H.E. Kiya Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN  
H.E. Lee Jang-Keum, Ambassador of Korea to ASEAN  
H.E. Pam Dunn, Ambassador of New Zealand to ASEAN  
H.E. Evgeny Zagaynov, Ambassador of Russia to ASEAN  
H.E. Yohannes Amraham, Ambassador of the U.S. to ASEAN

Date: August 31, 2023

RE: ASEAN members and their dialogue partners are urged to end Burma/Myanmar military's access to jet fuel and weapons ahead of ASEAN summit

Your excellencies,

We, the undersigned 150 organizations, are writing to urge prompt, coordinated actions of governments of ASEAN and ASEAN dialogue partners to bring an end to the ongoing atrocities perpetrated daily by the Burmese military.

It has been more than two years since the illegal military coup deposed Burma's democratically-elected leaders. In that time, ASEAN and its partner governments, including the

EU, US, Japan, South Korea and Australia, have failed to take sufficient actions to hold the military to account, implement the “Five Point Consensus,” and end the violence.

From September 5-7, your government will participate in the ASEAN Summit in Jakarta. We urge you to work with all government representatives present at the Summit to deliver the following:

1. A joint call from ASEAN and ASEAN dialogue partners calling for the United Nations Security Council to demonstrate their support of ASEAN, the Five-Point Consensus, and the people of Burma by keeping the situation in Burma on the agenda and introducing resolution that calls for regular meetings and an arms embargo, including a ban on aviation fuel.
2. A joint release from ASEAN governments announcing: a commitment to preventing the junta from procuring aviation fuel. This includes:
  - a. Classifying aviation fuel as a “dual-use technology” under applicable local laws;
  - b. Banning the shipment or transshipment of aviation fuel through ports in ASEAN member states;
  - c. Banning companies located in ASEAN member-states from selling or transporting aviation fuel to any entity in Myanmar; and
  - d. Banning the provision of financial services, such as maritime shipping insurance, to companies or vessels transporting aviation fuel to Burma.
3. A joint commitment from ASEAN members to further restrict the military junta’s access to funding and the international banking system. U.S. sanctions on the Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank have given ASEAN members legal cover to prevent their banks from transmitting money to the junta. ASEAN members should work with their domestic monetary authorities to ensure that domiciled banks are not making or processing payments to the junta and its affiliated entities.

The junta is using aerial attacks to target civilian-populated areas, including IDPs hiding places, and initiate conflict with local ethnic groups. In the first four months of 2023, there were [442](#) airstrikes. This nearly eclipses the total number of airstrikes conducted in all of 2022, which was [449](#).

On July 27, two schools in Karenni State were damaged due to airstrikes, with many villagers [emphasizing](#) the intentionality behind the attacks: “When they [the military] can't establish the educational and administrative systems they want, they resort to attacking schools, hindering Karenni children from learning.” Children from Karen state have been forced to seek refuge in the seven refugee camps that line the Thai-Burma border after military attacks [increased](#) the number of school-aged refugees from 16,000 to 21,000 in just one year.

In Kachin state, military planes [drop bombs](#) in villages, killing civilians. Civilians in Shan state were killed after the military [bombed villages](#) believed to be hiding local soldiers, an accusation later [disproved](#). In late July, over 3,000 civilians were [forcibly displaced](#) from central Burma's Sagaing region over the span of five days of military fighting.

As the civilian death toll rises and the number of refugees and internally displaced peoples increases, it is impossible to deny that access to jet fuel is critical to support the military's campaign of violence.

Yet governments have failed to act and companies continue to facilitate the military's access to jet fuel. In November 2022, Amnesty International's report, [Deadly Cargo](#), linked jet fuel access to increasing human rights abuses; but only months later, Global Witness and Amnesty International [revealed](#) the names of several companies, including, but not limited to, Thai, Indian, and Japanese, that were still engaging in the shipment of jet fuel to the Burmese junta in March 2023. The engagement of these companies makes them complicit in the human rights abuses committed by the Burmese junta via aerial attacks throughout the country.

The United States and United Kingdom have both placed sanctions on Burmese and Singaporean entities accused of facilitating the trade in aviation fuel, while the U.S. has issued a regulatory determination threatening further sanctions against companies involved in the sale of aviation fuel into Burma. We strongly encourage ASEAN member-states to support these sanctions and work with international partners to end the trade of aviation fuel in Burma.

ASEAN, the UN, and other governments have failed the people of Burma for far too long. The country is in desperate need of support beyond arbitrary condemnations. We urge you to stand on the right side of history and act with urgency to hold the military accountable for its crimes and bring Burma the peace and justice the people of Burma deserve.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

1. Ah Nah Podcast - Conversations with Myanmar, Ireland
2. ALTSEAN-Burma, Thailand
3. American Baptist Churches, KS, USA
4. American Baptist Churches, OH, USA
5. Arizona Kachin Community, AZ, USA

6. Australian Karen Organisation Inc
7. Bangladesh Rohingya Student Union (BRSU)
8. Better Burma, CA, USA
9. Burma Action Ireland
10. Burma Advocacy Group, USA
11. Burma Campaign UK
12. Burma Canadian Association of Ontario
13. Burma Task Force, IL, USA
14. Burmese American Community Institute, IN, USA
15. Burmese Rohingya Organisation UK
16. Burmese Women's Union (BWU), Thailand
17. California Kachin Community, CA, USA
18. Calvary Burmese Church, Washington, DC
19. Campaign for a New Myanmar, Washington, DC, USA
20. Chin Association of Maryland, Inc. MD, USA
21. Chin Baptist Association, MD, USA
22. Community Rebuilding Centre, Bangladesh
23. Coordination Team for Emergency Relief (Karenni), Burma
24. Crane Center for Prevention of Mass Atrocities, CA, USA
25. CRPH Funding Ireland
26. Dallas Kachin Community, TX, USA
27. DEEKU-Karenni Community of Amarillo, TX, USA
28. Det Norsk Baptistsamfunn, Norway
29. DFW Kachin Baptist Church, TX
30. EarthRights International, Washington, DC, USA
31. European Karen Network, Norway
32. Florida Kachin Community, FL, USA
33. Free Burma Campaign South Africa
34. Georgia Kachin Community, GA, USA
35. Give A Helping Hand, Norway
36. Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, NY, USA
37. Houston Kachin Community, TX, USA
38. Human Rights Foundation of Monland, Burma
39. Humanity Institute, Burma
40. Institute for Asian Democracy, Washington, DC. USA
41. International Campaign for the Rohingya, Washington, DC, USA
42. International Karen Organization, PA, USA
43. Iowa Kachin Community, IA, USA

44. Jewish World Watch, CA, USA
45. Justice For All, Washington, DC. USA
46. K'Nyaw Baptist Church, MN
47. Kachin American Community (Portland – Vancouver)
48. Kachin Baptist Churches, MD, USA
49. Kachin Community of Indiana, IN, USA
50. Kachin Community of USA
51. Kachin Contextual Analysis Team, Burma
52. Kachin refugee committee, Malaysia
53. Kachin Women's Association Thailand
54. Kansas Karenni community, KS, USA
55. Karen American Association of Wisconsin, WI, USA
56. Karen Association of Huron, SD, USA
57. Karen Baptist Church, CO
58. Karen Community of Canada
59. Karen Community in Norway
60. Karen Community of Akron, OH, USA
61. Karen Community of Georgia, GA, USA
62. Karen Community of Greensboro, NC, USA
63. Karen Community of Iowa, IA, USA
64. Karen Community of Kansas City, KS & MO, USA
65. Karen Community of Minnesota, MN, USA
66. Karen Human Rights Group, Burma
67. Karen Organization of Illinois, IL, USA
68. Karen Peace Support Network, Thailand
69. Karen Women's Organization (KWO), Thailand
70. Karen Youth Education Pathways, Washington, DC, USA
71. Karen Youth Network, Burma
72. Karenni Community of Arizona, AZ, USA
73. Karenni Community of Arkansas, AK, USA
74. Karenni Community of Austin, TX, USA
75. Karenni Community of Bowling Green, KY, USA
76. Karenni Community of Buffalo, NY, USA
77. Karenni Community of Chicago, IL, USA
78. Karenni Community of Colorado, CO, USA
79. Karenni Community of Dallas, TX, USA
80. Karenni community of Des Moines, IA, USA
81. Karenni Community of Florida, FL, USA

82. Karenni Community of Fort Worth, TX, USA
83. Karenni Community of Georgia, GA, USA
84. Karenni Community of Houston, TX, USA
85. Karenni Community of Idaho, ID, USA
86. Karenni Community of Indianapolis, IN, USA
87. Karenni Community of Massachusetts, MA, USA
88. Karenni Community of Michigan, MI, USA
89. Karenni community of Minnesota, MN, USA
90. Karenni Community of Missouri, MO, USA
91. Karenni Community of North Carolina, NC, USA
92. Karenni Community of Portland, OR, USA
93. Karenni Community of Rockford, IL, USA
94. Karenni Community of San Antonio, TX, USA
95. Karenni Community of Sioux Falls, SD, USA
96. Karenni Community of Utah, UT, USA
97. Karenni Community of Utica, NY, USA
98. Karenni Community of Washington, WA, USA
99. Karenni Community of Wisconsin, WI, USA
100. Karenni Human Rights Group, Burma
101. Karenni National Women's Organization (KNWO), Thailand
102. Karenni Society of Omaha, NE, USA
103. Karenni-American Association, USA, USA
104. Kayan Women's Organization (KyWO), Burma
105. Kentucky Kachin Community, KY, USA
106. Kuki Women's Human Rights Organization (KWHRO), Burma
107. L'chaim! Jews Against the Death Penalty
108. Lahu Women's Organization (LWO)
109. Louisiana Kachin Community, LA, USA
110. Maryland Kachin Community, MD, USA
111. Michigan Kachin Community, MI, USA
112. Milwaukee Myanmar Christian Church, WI, USA
113. Mingalarama Wiharra Monastery, MD, USA
114. Minnesota Kachin Community, MN, USA
115. Myanmar Campaign Network, Australia
116. Myanmar Christian Church of Metro Chicago, IL, USA
117. Never Again Coalition, OR, USA
118. New York Kachin Community, NY, USA
119. No Business With Genocide, Washington, DC, USA

120. North Carolina Kachin Community, NA, USA
121. NUG and CRPH Supporters Ireland
122. Omaha Kachin Community, NE, USA
123. Overseas Burmese Christian Fellowship, MA
124. Pa-O Women's Union (PWU), Burma
125. Peace and Justice Committee, KY, USA
126. Pennsylvania Kachin Community, PA, USA
127. Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
128. Rohingya Action Ireland
129. Rohingya Students Network, Bangladesh
130. Shan Women's Action Network (SWAN), Thailand
131. South Carolina Kachin Community, SC, USA
132. Ta'ang Women's Organization (TWO), Burma
133. Tavoy Women's Union (TWU)
134. Temple Beth Tikvah, Roswell, GA
135. Temple Habonim, Barrington, RI
136. Tennessee Kachin Community, TN, USA
137. U.S. Campaign for Burma, Washington, DC, USA
138. Unitarian Universalist Association, NY, USA
139. Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, MA, USA
140. Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation, WI, USA
141. United States Chin Coalition, IN, USA
142. UU College of Social Justice, MA, USA
143. UU Mass Action, MA, USA
144. UU Society of Oneonta NY, USA
145. Virginia Kachin Community, VA, USA
146. Washington Kachin Community, WA, USA
147. West Virginia Kachin Community, WV, USA
148. Women for Justice (WJ), Burma
149. Women's League of Burma, Thailand
150. Women's Peace Network, Burma

