



Ministry of Foreign Affairs Republic of the Union of Myanmar

**Briefing on UNSC Arria meeting by H.E Daw Zin Mar Aung
April 9, 2021**

Madam Chairperson,

Your Excellencies,

Thank you all so much for giving me floor to share the message from inside Burma/Myanmar to the world.

- On February 1, the Myanmar Military led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing unleashed an attack of systematic and targeted violence against the citizens of Myanmar. This orchestrated program of armed violence has brought suffering and devastation to civilians across my entire country. From north to south, from east to west, this choreographed dance of death planned by the Myanmar Military has also caused human, political, economic, and social chaos. The military has murdered at least 600 individuals just for peacefully protesting against the military's misconduct. It is important to highlight the excessive use of force and violence by the security forces against the non-violence pro-democracy movement (also known as/ Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM)). Thousands of my fellow countrymen and women are still unlawfully detained, incommunicado and without any due process rights. This includes civilian political leaders.
- Today, before this session starts, the military forces used lethal force, live munitions and even RPGs to attack the civilian population in Bago Township. The ambulances are not allowed to enter to the area even though there have been dozens of civilian fatalities.
- In the last two weeks, the Tatmadaw has also escalated its armed violence, in different ethnic states including Karen, Shan, and Kachin. The military also used airstrike in such ethnic area. Additionally, the Tatmadaw also redeployed forces to Rakhine state after the Brotherhood Alliance including Arakan Army (AA) issued a statement criticizing the killing of peaceful civilian protesters.
- Aside from the systematic violent attacks by the military that target ordinary people, the military high command overseeing this carnage - now trying to whitewash itself by using the name Tatmadaw's State Administration Council (SAC) - has been implementing aggressive tactics such as cutting off internet connection, arbitrary arrests and unlawful detention.

- There is a vast abundance of evidence to prove that the Tatmadaw's criminal activities are both systematic and targeted. Our citizens have documented and uploaded in the internet videos and reports of thousands of atrocities committed by the security forces.
- The persistence of the CDM since the systematic and targeted attack was unleashed on 1 February are confirmation that the Military does not have control over the country, despite the excessive use of force by the security forces.

The systemic violence committed by the military against the civilian population are proofs that the military does not have any legitimacy whatsoever.

- I am making this presentation to you today as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. I represent Myanmar. I was appointed to this post by the authorized body of our national parliament, which is composed of the democratically elected representatives of the people of Myanmar. As duly elected representatives of the people, it is our legal and moral obligation, to the best of our abilities, to exercise our mandate to end the military rampage and return Myanmar to orderly, civilian, democratic governance. We must ensure the rule of law is respected and we have national and international legal obligations to bring justice to all those who have sacrificed their lives and freedoms against this systemic and targeted military violence against the civilians of my country.
- Failing to convene in-person on February 1 due to the planned military violence, we, the elected members of parliament took our oath of office and convened online. We formed the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) to carry out our mandate of forming a legitimate government out of the representatives duly elected by the people.
- The planned military bloodbath that started on February 1 were clearly illegal and thus the military cannot be considered a legitimate or lawful government. Not even if the generals try to hide behind the anodyne-sounding name of "State Administration Council (SAC)"

The SAC will claim that its formation and actions are in line with the 2008 Constitution. This is far from the truth.

1. First, even if one were to refer to the 2008 Constitution, the Military had no legal basis that would allow it to manufacture a false state of emergency where none actually existed. There had been no evidence of voter fraud. Moreover, only the President may declare a state of emergency, not the generals. To get around this, the Military illegally and outrageously imprisoned the President, the head of state, and installed its long-retired-general Vice-President as President to declare a state of emergency. The illegal and illegitimate and no longer in force 2008 Constitution was used "as a fig leaf to restore its power."
2. Second, the 2008 Constitution itself no longer exists. It has been abolished. It was an illegal and illegitimate instrument in the first place. The process of drafting the 2008 Constitution was fundamentally flawed - it was autocratic and failed to take into account election results. The substance of the Constitution was undemocratic and authoritarian. Furthermore, the 2008 Constitution has empowered the Tatmadaw to repeatedly undermine Myanmar's democratic transition.

Now, future is in our hands to establish federal democratic union in the future.

- On April 1, 2021, we have launched the Federal Democracy Charter, which outlines our commitment to ending the bloody campaign by the Military against its own civilian population that it is meant to be protecting and toward building a new Federal Democratic Union of Myanmar based on the following values:
 1. Democracy Rights, Gender Equality and basic Human Rights.
 2. Equality and Self-Determination.
 3. Collective Leadership.
 4. Diversity, Social Harmony, Solidarity and Non-Discrimination; and
 5. Protection of Minority Rights.
- It is of paramount importance to highlight the fact that the Charter is a fundamental political pact which outlines roadmap of the state building process and future peace process of Myanmar. All Stakeholders such as CRPH, Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs), Political Parties, Leaders of CDMs, and Civil Society Organizations drafted, discussed and ratified the Charter. As such, the Charter is a product of collective leadership and reflects the collective interests of the people of Myanmar.
- The Charter has identified steps and principles toward establishing institutions that will help the country's stakeholders during a transition period leading to the development of the pillars of a modern and peaceful Federal Democracy Union, which guarantees freedom, justice, and equality.

Now, I would like to extend an invitation to the international community to support our fight for democracy.

- First, we recognize the reservations of the international community in terms of direct physical intervention to stop the Military's systemic and targeted violence against the people of Myanmar and against the democratic forces. We are deeply concerned that if the Tatmadaw does not stop its present course of conduct, the situation inside the country will continue to deteriorate and will cause further human suffering. This would inevitably instigate economic instability and potentially lead to massive refugee outflows across Myanmar borders and into the wider region. The Security Council was established with the responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. We therefore urge the UNSC Member States to take immediate concrete action that places both direct and indirect pressure against the military and to uphold Pillar 3 of the Responsibility to Protect.
- Second, we appreciate all the efforts that have been done so far to put pressure against the Tatmadaw and the military high command masquerading as the so-called SAC. We urge all Member States of the United Nations and all international stakeholders to continue and indeed to increase their efforts (political, financial, and security measures) against the Tatmadaw until the military's violent attacks on civilians stop and Myanmar returns to the rule of law under civilian and democratic rule.
- And third, we ask for the International Community's recognition of the CRPH, Federal Democracy Charter, and interim National Unity Government. The Federal Democracy Charter was drafted and approved by the CRPH, the legitimate body of the Union Parliament, political parties, Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) and Civil Society Organizations. It has full legitimacy as it is an outcome of

collective leadership. The Interim National Unity Government will be formed and perform its mandated duties in accordance with the Charter until we achieve the Federal Democratic Union. We seek meaningful support for our effort to restore democracy and build a peaceful Federal Democratic Union which guarantees freedom, justice and equality to all people in Myanmar.

Excellencies,

The struggle of Myanmar people is not about the fight between political parties or two political forces. This is the fight between the people and the oppressive terrorists. This is the fight between democracy and authoritarianism. We cannot let these abhorrent acts of terror of Myanmar military in this civilized world. The choice is in our hands and the choice is in your hands.

Daw Zin Mar Aung

Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs