Republic of the Union of Myanmar

National Unity Government

Ministry of Human Rights

Statement on the first anniversary of the Ministry of Human Rights

3 May 2022

Today marks the first anniversary of the Ministry of Human Rights of the National Unity Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The National Unity Government (NUG) is committed to Myanmar's international obligations to respect, protect and fulfill human rights. Since its inception, the Ministry of Human Rights has been charged with leading these efforts, which have included:

- the investigation and documentation of alleged violations and abuses of human rights, in support of accountability and in consultation with local and international civil society
- human rights mainstreaming across NUG policies and programs
- the development and dissemination of human rights education materials, including television content and infographics, video clips and animations shared on social media
- engagement with United Nations forums, mechanisms, agencies and experts, including the Human Rights Council, the Special Rapporteur on Myanmar, and the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar
- the strengthening of diplomatic relations with States and regional organisations
- engagement with international and local journalists and media outlets in support of access to information and press freedom.

Significantly, these activities have been implemented in the face of escalating atrocities by the illegal military junta – atrocities that multiple senior United Nations officials have determined to likely comprise grave human rights violations and abuses, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

The Ministry of Human Rights also partnered with other NUG ministries in developing the Government's Policy Position on the Rohingya, the Military Code of Conduct for People's Resistance Forces, and the Policy for Protection of Women and Children in Conflict.

The Ministry will continue to support the NUG's engagement with the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice in pursuit of accountability, including for atrocity crimes directed against the Rohingya and other minorities.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Human Rights – guided by the NUG's leadership, the National Unity Consultative Council, and the Committee Representating Pyidaungsu Hluttaw – will advance the implementation of the Federal Democracy Charter, which commits to a Union founded on rights, equality, peace, justice, and the protection of minorities.

The Ministry expresses its gratitude to civil society, human rights defenders, the Civil Disobedience Movement and the General Strike Committee, to Ethnic Organisations, and to all members of Myanmar society who, at grave personal risk, are striving to advance human rights, democracy, and fundamental freedoms.

This same appreciation is extended to the members of the international community that continue to stand in solidarity with the Myanmar people.