



Women's Peace Network

Statement on Sexual Violence in Chin State | November 17, 2021

We, Women's Peace Network, are horrified to hear that on November 11, a group of Myanmar military soldiers gang raped a 27-year-old ethnic Chin woman of Akllui Village, Tedim Township, Chin State in front of her husband, assaulted him, and plundered their home; and further gang raped her 30-year-old pregnant sister-in-law.¹

We are distressed that the decades-long impunity continues to embolden the Myanmar military to use rape as a weapon of war. As reported by the United Nations (UN) Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM), the Myanmar military and security forces have perpetrated the most brutal forms of sexual and gender-based violence -- including rape, gang rape, sexual mutilation, and sexual slavery -- against Rohingya and other ethnic minority groups for decades. Since the February 1 coup, the Myanmar military has continued to brutalize women with this violence, including by raping a 62-year-old woman in Namflom Village, Kutkai Township of Shan State on November 7, as well as a 14-year-old girl in Namphatka Village of the same township.

For years, many women's organizations, including Women's Peace Network, have documented and reported about the Myanmar military's use of sexual and gender-based violence in our communities. Despite our calls for accountability, the international community has continuously failed to take concerted action against this brutal military. We now fear that fueled by this impunity, the Myanmar military's systematic use of sexual and gender-based violence will engulf the entire nation -- including Chin State -- without delay.

Therefore, we call upon the international community to take swift action to provide protection and support to the women of Myanmar, and hold the Myanmar military accountable for its brutality. As urged by 521 Myanmar civil society organizations on November 4, the UN Security Council must immediately convene an urgent meeting on the crisis in Chin State, refer the situation of Myanmar to the International Criminal Court, and impose a global arms embargo on the country. The UN Member States must also impose economic sanctions and financial penalties against Myanmar military-owned and controlled businesses and conglomerates; further financial restrictions must be placed on the junta's private dealings with global conglomerates.

It is past time for the international community to hold the Myanmar military accountable. Only when this vicious cycle of impunity ends can we achieve a truly inclusive and federal democracy.

¹ "[Junta troops accused of raping two women in Myanmar's Chin State](#)," November 16, 2021, Radio Free Asia.