



#MilkTeaAlliance Statement on a year since the attempted Coup in Myanmar

As of 20th Jan 2022, at least 2,164 people have been killed by the Junta and over 11,000 have been arbitrarily detained¹. The violence has been escalating² against the peoples of Myanmar. Arbitrary detention, torture, rape, and murder have become commonplace. The Junta is implementing its 4 cuts strategy in many ethnic areas, using airstrikes against civilians, razing towns (such as Thantlang³) and villages and burning innocent civilians including aid workers⁴. Its crimes are numerous and well-documented. Some international lawyers and the IIMM have assessed⁵ a number of its actions to be crimes against humanity, and violations of international humanitarian law.

Since 1 Feb 2021, an estimated 320,900 people have been displaced (this is on top of the 340,000 IDPs and over 1 million Rohingya refugees from previous conflicts)⁶. Humanitarian needs are increasing alongside the escalation in violence and displacement. The economy has tanked and health systems have been mismanaged amid the Covid-19, having a devastating impact on people.

Throughout the year, the peoples of Myanmar have stood in defiance to the takeover and violence against them. We continue to see protests, flash mobs, strikes and boycotts of Junta companies, and other civil disobedience actions all across Myanmar on a daily basis led by students, trade unions, LGBT+ groups and local strike committees. The armed resistance, made up of many established EAOs and joined by the new People's Defense Forces, is battling the Junta on a daily basis. Programs working on encouraging defections have made an impact on the military⁷. We see the work of CSOs, ethnic organizations and community & underground (CDM) clinics in providing aid, health care and support to many displaced and vulnerable communities despite the hugely challenging conditions.

Myanmar people in diaspora and their allies across the world have also carried out efforts to support the cause. There have been numerous protests & activities around the world⁸ supporting the resistance on the ground.

This inspiring and creative resistance has meant the coup has not been successful.

It was briefly encouraging in June last year to see the United Nations General Assembly pass a resolution strongly condemning the February 1 coup. The General Assembly also made several important recommendations, including calling for all member-states to prevent the flow of arms into Myanmar but the UN Security Council did not follow up and did not propose a legally binding resolution of its own.⁹ Some steps have been taken by some countries and blocs (USA, Canada, UK and the EU) such as sanctions of members of the Junta and some sanctions against Junta businesses, in many cases in response to the tireless lobbying by diaspora and allies.

However much of the international community's response has been lackluster. Much of this can be put down to the expectation that ASEAN could lead an effective response to the crisis. We reiterate our disappointment in ASEAN, its 5

¹ <http://www.altsean.org/special-reports.html>

² <https://acleddata.com/data-export-tool/>

³ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/interactive/2021/myanmar-military-burn-villages-tatmadaw/>

⁴ <https://www.savethechildren.net/news/save-children-staff-identified-among-dead-after-burnt-bodies-found-myanmar>

⁵ <http://opiniojuris.org/2022/01/03/conflagration-in-myanmar-international-crimes-in-the-burning-of-thantlang>

⁶ <https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/myanmar-humanitarian-update-no-14-17-january-2022>

⁷ <https://www.france24.com/en/asia-pacific/20211210-i-couldn-t-kill-innocent-people-myanmar-soldiers-defect-to-join-resistance>

⁸ <https://actionnetwork.org/groups/global-myanmar-spring-revolution>

⁹ <https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2021-07/news-briefs/un-adopts-nonbinding-arms-embargo-myanmar>

point consensus was underwhelming and the progress towards these objectives negligible. Indeed Hun Sen's visit to Myanmar and interactions with the Junta have reversed even the limited steps taken¹⁰.

To our friends & allies in the resistance

We recognise that the situation on the ground is incredibly hard and that the challenges faced are still significant. The toll the resistance is taking physically, emotionally on our friends is obvious, but also their determination to succeed and create a better, fairer, more inclusive future remains undiminished. We will continue to support you in every way that we can. We will raise up your cries for justice, your calls for action, we will share your campaigns and advocate to governments alongside the diaspora, we will continue to provide material resources and emotional support as best we can. We know it is not enough but we hope it is something that aids you in your struggle.

We build our alliances and friendships on shared suffering and shared objectives. We will transcend the suffering and work together in solidarity. When we are beaten down, we help each other to get back on our feet and stand in solidarity. Your cause is our cause. We will win!

On this anniversary not only do we reiterate the calls we made in April¹¹ to the international community, international bodies, INGOs and other actors but also make clear that more action needs to be taken:

1. Sanctions need to be stepped up. The fact that MOGE is still unsanctioned a year after the coup is reprehensible as it accounts for a significant amount of the foreign currency income that the Junta receives. This money is used to purchase arms and technology to use against the peoples of Myanmar & keep the Junta in power. Both the US and EU need to take steps to cut this source of income¹². Beyond that there are many calls for different sanctions from different parts of the resistance. The NUG policy on sanctions has drawn many of these together and should be implemented.¹³
2. We call on the world to recognise the National Unity Government NUG, CRPH & NUCC – (CRPH being the civilian representatives that have the electoral mandate from the Nov 2020 elections) – and to support them in working towards a genuine and inclusive federal democratic project, alongside all ethnic groups, EAOs, student & trade Unions & CSOs.
3. On the matter of humanitarian aid, with at least 3 million¹⁴ people in need of humanitarian aid in Myanmar it is vital that international agencies ensure that their efforts reach those in need. We believe that part of the solution to this is ensuring that their programs work directly with local civil society organization, Ethnic groups and EAOs¹⁵. The Junta has blocked aid on many occasions and intercepted it for its own use.¹⁶
4. We call for more of the international community to support the struggle for justice by the Rohingya people, to support the ICJ genocide case brought by Gambia, the universal jurisdiction case in Argentina and the lawsuit against Facebook. We also believe that the Junta need to be held to account for their other crimes against humanity, both prior to the attempted coup against other ethnic groups and the ones committed subsequent to it.
5. To take actions to stop the Junta's capacity to use airstrikes and other attacks on civilians. Both a Global Arms Embargo against the Junta and military No Fly Zone policy have been requested by allies on the ground. The UN General assembly has also earlier called for an arms embargo.

We the #MilkTeaAlliance Friends of Myanmar group along with the undersigned stand with the peoples of Myanmar against the Junta and will continue to do what we can to support the peoples of Myanmar in their struggle.

¹⁰<https://progressivevoicemyanmar.org/2022/01/04/joint-statement-by-the-civil-society-organizations-of-myanmar-and-cambodia-condemning-hun-sens-support-of-the-myanmar-military-junta/>

¹¹<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdmzocqwOQ25IZN0P7w4L9H0nAn3-K8JkqrkacjWTVXVQ3c>

¹²<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/governments-of-the-united-states-and-france-stop-blocking-sanctions-on-myanmar-gas-revenues>

¹³<https://twitter.com/NUGMyanmar/status/1458049821386944512>

¹⁴<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/11/1105202>

¹⁵<https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/opinion/2021/7/28/theres-nothing-neutral-about-engaging-with-myanmars-military>

¹⁶<https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/12/13/myanmar-junta-blocks-lifesaving-aid>

Initial Signatories:

#MilkTeaAlliance (Friends of Myanmar)

#MilkTeaAlliance (Calendar Team)

Xun-ling Au, UK

Yasmin Ullah

Winnie Thaw

Alliance Canada Hong Kong

Debbie Stothard (**ALTSEAN-Burma**)

MilkTeaAlliance Galleries

MilkTeaAlliance_Thailand

SPELL-Sustainability and Participation through Education and Lifelong Learning

Nyein

MTA Malaysia

Marc Batac, Philippines

Initiatives for International Dialogue

Blood Money Campaign - Myanmar

Sitt Nyein Pann Foundation - Myanmar

Reihana Mohideen

Ryan Joseph Martinez, Philippines

Safina Maulida, Indonesia

Corazon Valdez-Fabros, Philippines

Rachel Arini, Indonesia

Kornkanok Khumta

Zar Pann Phyu, Myanmar

MilkTeaAlliance Indonesia

The torch, thailand

Daodin, Thailand

New Esan movement, Thailand

Yangyang, Thailand

AJ Sunglao

Gus Miclat, Philippines

KNACK Association Chiang Mai, Thailand

Phrae Pro-Democracy Network

เชน เชษฐา - Chettha Klindee, **College of Politics and Governance Mahasarakham University**, Thailand

Sirisak Chaited, Thailand

Naung Latt

ASEAN SOGIE Caucus

CAN ชุมชนนักกิจกรรมภาคเหนือ

Pinij Tongkum, Thai political activist

Fr.Dominic, **Catholic Church, Kengtung Diocese**, East of Shan State, Myanmar

Pirap kao, Lampang province

Phatchara Kamchamnarn, Thailand

Alma

Burapha Coastal Network 5, Eastern Province,Thailand

homeless shelter "Baan Torfun" Rayong Province, Thailand

Fuey Keeratreeporn

Queer Riot

Patricia Duangcham, **GIRLxGIRL**, Thailand

Malongdu Theatre, Thailand

Tirmizy E. Abdullah - **Marawi Advocacy Accompaniment**, Philippines

Sooyoung, **ADN**, Korea

Ratsadon Khong Shi Moon, Thailand

Davi Giri

FemFoo, Thailand

SEM - Spirit in Education Movement

Himalayan J.

Su Myat Naing

Southern Thai feminist liberal, Thailand

Jingjai, Thailand

Tamtang Group

Ceva Dayan

Tanruthai Thanrut

Dr. Charlie Thame, Asst. Prof. of International Relations, **Thammasat University**, Thailand.

MiMi Aye, writer and activist, United Kingdom

Sebastian Berger, **Global Student Forum**, Belgium

Global Student Forum

Pakavadi Veerapaspong, Thailand

Mr.Sirivich Thongkum , **Assemblition of phetchabun students**,Thailand

Johnson, Ching-Yin Yeung , Hong Kong

Pitchaya Ket-udom, **MokelungRimnam**, Thailand

Coalition of Lanna student

Ondřej Cakl, Czech Republic

Piyamit Klanarong ,**Thalufah**, Thailand

Justice For Myanmar , Myanmar

Nu nu than

Udon por gan tee

Rizky Lani / Indonesia

Bruce Van Voorhis, United States

U.S. Advocacy Coalition for Myanmar (USACM):

- Free Burma Action Bay/USA/Global
- Free Myanmar Campaign USA/BACI
- ICR / No Business with Genocide / Campaign for a New Myanmar
- Chin Leaders of Tomorrow (CLT)
- Myanmar Advocacy Coalition
- Burmese American Millennials
- Nationalities Alliance of Burma USA
- Global Movement for Myanmar Democracy (GM4MD)
- Freedom for Burma - Karen Organization of America
- LA Rohingya Association/America Rohingya Justice Network
- Burma Task Force
- American Rohingya Advocacy/Arakan Institute for Peace and Development
- Support the Democracy Movement in Burma
- Burmese Democratic Forces
- Freedom, Justice, Equality for Myanmar
- Students for Free Burma
- United States Chin Coalition (UUSC)

Befria Hongkong / Sweden

Asia Democracy Network, Asia Regional

Zack Lee, Philippines

YLBHI (Indonesia Legal Aid Foundation)

Kabir Qurban, Canada

Duyen Bui & Viet Tan ,Vietnam & USA

Myanmar Students Coalition British Columbia (Canada)

Kimmy May

Khin Kyi Thar Oo

Elenora

Listen Up Myanmar

Ryan Lagace

Aung Myat Kyaw, Myanmar

Aye Moh Thu

Michelle Coutinho

Che Va Htoo Shein

Myanmar Student Association Ontario (Ontario, Canada)

Mimi Yee (Toronto, Canada)

Milk Tea Alliance Philippines

Jue

Akbayan! Youth , Philippines

Coalition For Democracy , Myanmar

Shih-Ling Wang , Taiwan

Khylla Meneses, **Youth Resist**

Chelsea S. , Canada

Sumaiya Tufail

U.S. Campaign for Burma, USA

ChenHanTang

Young Progressives Hub (YPH)

National Union of Students of the Philippines

Lloyd Manango, **League of Filipino Students**, Philippines

Nerissa

Kabataan Partylist - Youth Member of Parliament, Philippines

League of Filipino Students, Philippines

Mokeluang Rimnam

UP ALYANSA , Philippines

Students' Rights and Welfare Coalition Philippines, Philippines

Bukluran UP System

John Ryan Jacot, **Union of Progressive Students**, Philippines

BUKLOD CSSP , Philippines

Diep Dao/ Vietnam

Union of Progressive Students (Philippines)

United Front of Thammasat and Demonstration (UFTD) Thailand

Panusaya Sithijirawattanakul ,Thailand

SEA Junction

Kaung Soe Thant

Workers' Union (สหภาพคนทำงาน) Thailand

Feminist's Liberation Front

Creative Workers Union Thailand (CUT)

Karapatan Alliance Philippines

Raevene Morillo

Aaron James Patriarca, **/Milk Tea Alliance Ph, Philippines**

General Strike Coordination Body-GSCB, Myanmar

GPPAC-Southeast Asia

Rasti Delizo , **Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino** (BMP/Solidarity of Filipino Workers),

Karen Tanada, **GZO Peace Institute**, Philippines

Corazon Valdez Fabros, **International Peace Bureau**, Philippines

Additional Signatories:

Ryan Sebastian, Studio Miring, Indonesia

Fresh Eyes, United Kingdom

Jun Kyu Lee, Republic of Korea

Zulyani Evi, Indonesia

Ananya Phonphana, Thailand

Mikhail Vokobre, Alexey Navalny's supporter, Russia

International IPMSDL

Burma Solidarity Philippines

Thidar Aungyi UK

Hannilette Diola

In Defense of Human Rights and Dignity Movement (iDEFEND), Philippines

True Colors Coalition (TCC) / Philippines

Camille C. Milioga, Philippines

Colin Archer, UK

Student Council Alliance of the Philippines, Philippines

Than Rittiphan, Thailand

Eero Kivistö, Finland

Asher Serrana, Belgium

Angela Villamero

Bernard Brian Bejo, **UP ALYANSA**, Philippines

Yes

BuSUONE(Philippines)

Jun Arellano Nale / Philippines

Marlies Roth/Germany

Al Alegre, **Pandayan para sa Sosyalistang Pilipinas**, Philippines

Clark Luke youth Sector

Cris - independent - Spain

Ian Cyrus Eduarte Barcelos, **Classic Grounds Alliance Las Piñas**, Philippines

Students' Rights and Welfare Philippines

Bryll Kenryl T. Murro

John Vete Roceta/ N/A /Philippines

Centro de Colaboración Cívica / México

Gabriel Miller, New York City

Mange Ram Adhana President Association, **Promotion Sustainable development**, India

Hniangchin Sung - Canada

CENTRE FOR PEACEBUILDING ORGANIZATIONS

Gayon CARES Inc.

éilís weller / turtle island (u.s.)

Wai Wai Nu (**Women Peace Network**)

Indonesia for Global Justice

Ian Cyrus Eduarte Barcelos, **Classic Grounds Alliance Las Piñas (CGA-Las Piñas)** ,Philippines

Legal Initiatives for Vietnam

Quynh-Vi Tran

AC Le Diot, France

Tommie Chen

Anakbayan Cebu & Kabataan Partylist - Cebu

Muamar Samsodin

Europe solidaire sans frontières (ESSF), France

Paul Belisario, **ILPS Commission 10**

Kate Perris, UK

Pichakorn Jirapinyo, Thailand

Christine Vertucci, Philippines

Advocate-Trilok Chand Vishwas V. K., **National President, Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization**, Nepal

Ada Marie Bahian/none, Philippines

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Jhasper Ty

David Glendale Ardenaso/Philippines

Candise Marotta USA

JP Lozano

Jeffrey Lehman Taiwan and US

Nyan Linn, Myanmar

Felisa Foronda, **Akbayan**, Philippines

Yayasan Perlindungan Insani Indonesia

Middle East Nonviolence and Democracy (MEND)

Aniban ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (AMA)

Phu Phu ,Myanmar

Pirap kao (**Lampang freedom**)

Draconis revolution

Dumont

Ngamsuk Ruttanasatain, Thailand