



**Special Advisory Council for
MYANMAR**

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Ms. Virginia Gamba de Potgieter
Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
United Nations
New York

20 May 2025

Dear Special Representative,

The Special Advisory Council for Myanmar (SAC-M) writes in address of the Myanmar military junta's escalating atrocities against children.

On 12 May 2025, at least 22 schoolchildren – some as young as seven – and two teachers were killed when a junta fighter jet bombed O Htein Twin village school in Depayin Township, Sagaing Region. According to reports, as many as 105 other civilians were wounded in the attack, which took place at around 9:40am while children were sitting exams. The fighter jet deployed at least two bombs, believed to be cluster munitions. Survivors and residents have confirmed that there was no military activity near the site at the time.

The UN Secretary-General expressed his deep concern at reports of the attack and the killing and maiming of children, particularly given that the military junta had announced a ceasefire through to 31 May 2025 to facilitate emergency relief following the catastrophic earthquakes of 28 March 2025. Sagaing region was the epicentre.

This horrific airstrike is part of a series of repeated and deliberate attacks targeting children and schools. On 16 September 2022, in what is now known as the Let Yet Kone massacre, at least 12 people were killed, including seven children, in a brutal air and ground attack by junta forces on another school in Depayin Township, located inside a monastery compound. The Secretary-General condemned the attack, while the UN's Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar identified it as a potential war crime.

The Secretary-General's latest report on Children and Armed Conflict in Myanmar (S/2025/81) highlights that the Myanmar armed forces and related forces and affiliated militias have been listed for grave violations against children, including recruitment and use, killing and maiming, sexual violence, and attacks on schools and/or hospitals and abduction. The report also documents a more than 400 per cent increase in grave violations against children compared to the previous report.

According to Myanmar's National Unity Government, escalating junta airstrikes since the 28 March earthquakes have killed at least 334 civilians including 32 children, and have wounded at least 408 civilians including 53 children. These figures cover the period of 28 March to 9 May 2025 and therefore exclude the children killed and wounded in the 12 May

airstrike. All of these attacks have also occurred since the release of the Secretary-General's report in mid-March.

Given the junta's unrelenting atrocities against children, we call on you, Special Representative, to issue a public statement – potentially in partnership with the Committee on the Rights of the Child – that condemns the junta's recent Depayin Township airstrike and that requests:

- the Security Council to immediately resume efforts to address the situation in Myanmar through a new resolution that: (a) demands an immediate end to all attacks, particularly airstrikes, and a total countrywide ceasefire, (b) blocks the sale, transfer and diversion of arms, munitions, jet fuel, other military equipment and dual-use items to the Myanmar military, (c) facilitates the urgent, impartial and unobstructed delivery of humanitarian and material assistance by all available means to all communities in need, and (d) refers the situation in Myanmar to the International Criminal Court
- the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict to adopt the conclusions of the Secretary-General's report
- States to adopt and enforce punitive measures against junta members and their associates and business interests
- States that exercise universal jurisdiction to use their national courts to prosecute alleged international crimes committed in Myanmar, particularly grave violations against children.

Finally, we ask that you encourage the Government of Argentina to submit a formal request to Interpol to issue red notices for the arrest and extradition to Argentina of the 25 individuals named in warrants issued by an Argentinian court on 14 February 2025, under the principle of universal jurisdiction, for alleged crimes committed against Rohingya.

SAC-M is grateful for your attention and is ready to support your efforts. We intend to make this letter public after your receipt.

Sincerely,



Yanghee Lee



Marzuki Darusman



Chris Sidoti