March 22, 2021

**Hold Myanmar Military Accountable for Violence Against Women**

Dear President and Members of the United Nations (UN) Security Council,

Marking the 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, we, Women’s Peace Network, and the undersigned organizations working for women’s rights and against gender-based violence, call upon the UN Security Council to hold the Myanmar military accountable for grievously violating the human rights of women. Since the military’s illegitimate seizure of power on February 1, the people of Myanmar have led nationwide mass movements to demand for the November 2020 election results to be respected, the 2008 Constitution to be abolished, a federal democratic union to be built with full equality and self-determination, and those arbitrarily detained and arrested to be released. Despite engaging in nonviolent civil disobedience, thousands of civilians, including women, have been brutally assailed by the regime’s tactics of violent assault, arbitrary detention, and extrajudicial killing. Given this military’s record of using sexual violence as a weapon of war, we fear that the country’s progress in enhancing the status of women is at risk now more than ever. We, members of the global women’s rights movement, now urgently join forces to amplify the people’s calls: the Myanmar military and security forces must be held to account for their brutality, and all impunity fueling their historical violation of women’s rights and international laws and norms must end.

Across Myanmar, the military continue to act in violation of the UN Charter and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. In over a month, the Myanmar military and security forces have indiscriminately fired live ammunition at peaceful protesters -- killing at least 20 women. Deploying armored vehicles along the country’s streets, male security forces have targeted women with batons and slingshots all while strategically wielding water cannons, tear gas, stun grenades, and rubber bullets against other peaceful protesters. Throughout states and regions, the regime’s arbitrary detention and arrests of civilians have continued to rise as allegations of sexual assault and abuse across prisons have spread rampantly. If the Security Council and the international community do not take concrete action, we are concerned that the Myanmar military and security forces will continue to commit mass atrocities and act in contravention of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325, Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, and the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the member states for enforcing targeted measures against the Myanmar military and security forces. The Security Council’s intervention is crucial for ensuring that these measures have their intended effect of putting an end to the military’s arbitrary violence against its own people. Over the past several decades, the military junta has tortured and killed the country’s ethnic minorities to consolidate its power nationwide, and perpetrated sexual and gender-based violence against women as a tactic of repression. As reported by the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar in 2019, countless Rohingya women were subjected to rape, mass gang rape, sexually humiliating acts, sexual slavery, and sexual mutilations during the military’s “clearance operations” -- amounting to crimes against humanity and genocide -- across 2012, 2016, and 2017. Yet to be held accountable for these atrocities, the military has interpreted the international community’s lack of a unified and comprehensive response as a license to intensify their abusive practices against the country’s most vulnerable. We are now asking you to take all necessary measures against the Myanmar military, in order to break the cycles of violence and abuse that have gone on for too long.

We, the undersigned organizations, urge the UN Security Council to hold the Myanmar military and security forces accountable by adopting a resolution to

1. Refer the situation of Myanmar to the International Criminal Court in order hold the Myanmar military and security forces to account, under international law, for committing crimes, including rape and sexual violence.
2. Dispatch a monitoring and mediation body to Myanmar in response to the Myanmar military and security forces’ increasing use of violence against peaceful protesters, including women.
3. Impose targeted economic sanctions and financial penalties and restrictions on the junta leadership and businesses that are owned and controlled by the Myanmar military.
4. Impose a comprehensive and global arms embargo on Myanmar.

We thank you for your leadership and attention to this matter.

**Signed by**

1. Action Against Violence and Exploitation
2. African Women 4 Empowerment e.V.
3. African Women Leaders Forum
4. Akahatá
5. Aliran
6. Alliance for Gender Inclusion in the Peace Process
7. Alliance of Democracies Foundation
8. ALTSEAN-Burma
9. Articulación Feminista Marcosur
10. Asha Parivar
11. Asia Democracy Network
12. Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development
13. Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants
14. Asian Migrants Centre
15. Asian Migrants Coordinating Body
16. Asian Muslim Action Network
17. Asian Resource Foundation Nepal
18. Association for Women’s Rights in Development
19. Association of War Affected Women
20. Aware Girls
21. AZ ZAHARA Women Group
22. Bayan Hong Kong and Macau
23. Beyond Borders Malaysia
24. Building and Wood Workers' International Asia-Pacific Regional Women's Committee
25. California National Organization for Women
26. CEDAW Action Myanmar
27. Center for Prisoners’ Rights
28. Center for Trade Union and Human Rights Philippines
29. Center of Excellence on Women and Social Security, Walailak University of Thailand
30. Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy
31. CIS Timor
32. Citizen News Service
33. Civicus
34. Coalition Against Trafficking in Women-Asia Pacific
35. Collective for Research and Training on Development Action
36. Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
37. Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
38. Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
39. Congregation of St. Joseph
40. Congregation of the Mission
41. Count Me In! Consortium
42. Covenants Watch
43. Edmund Rice International
44. Elman Peace Center
45. Empatiku Foundation, Indonesia
46. EMPOWER Malaysia
47. Enlightened Myanmar Research Foundation
48. Equality Bahamas
49. EuroMed Feminist Initiative
50. European Coalition-Global Refugee Led Network
51. Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas
52. Feminist Alliance for Rights
53. Feminist Task Force "Gender Equality to End Poverty"
54. Feministischer Streik Darmstadt
55. Fiji Women’s Rights Movement
56. Filipino Migrant Workers Union
57. Flora Tristán
58. FOKUS – Forum for Women and Development
59. Fondazione Pangea Onlus-REAMA Network
60. Forum for Dignity Initiatives Pakistan
61. Frauen für den Frieden Berlin
62. Fund for Congolese Women
63. Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer
64. GABRIELA Hong Kong
65. Gender Equality Network
66. Global Interfaith Network
67. Global Justice Center
68. Global Network of Sex Work Projects
69. Global Network of Women Peacebuilders
70. Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict - Southeast Asia
71. Hope Revival Organization
72. Human Rights Watch
73. Initiatives for International Dialogue
74. Institute for Young Women Development
75. Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Loreto Generalate
76. Inter Pares
77. International Alliance of Women
78. International Civil Society Action Network
79. International Domestic Workers Federation
80. International Federation for Human Rights
81. International Presentation Association
82. International Trade Union Confederation
83. International Trade Union Confederation-Asia Pacific
84. International Trade Union Confederation-Asia Pacific Women's Committee
85. International Transport Workers’ Federation
86. International Union of Food Workers Asia/Pacific Regional Organization
87. International Women's Development Agency
88. International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific
89. Internet Law Reform Dialogue
90. Iraqi Al-Amal Association
91. Iraqi Women Network
92. Justice for Iran
93. Justice for Peace Foundation
94. Kachin Women's Association of Thailand
95. Karen Women’s Organization
96. Kuki Women's Human Rights Organization
97. L'Association Djazairouna
98. La Federación Internacional De Abogadas USA
99. Leadership Conference of Women Religious
100. League for the Defence of Human Rights in Iran
101. League of Women Voters of the United States
102. Let's Breakthrough, Inc.
103. MADRE
104. Maldivian Democracy Network
105. Manushya Foundation
106. Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
107. Mercy International Association - Global Action
108. Millennium Sistahs T&T
109. Mon Women Organisation
110. MUSAWAH GLOBAL VISION BERHAD
111. Naripokkho
112. National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
113. National Domestic Women Workers Federation
114. National Fisheries Solidarity Organization
115. National Organization for Women
116. National Women Farmers and Workers Association, Bangladesh
117. Nationality is a Right for Me and My Family Campaign
118. Network for Solidarity, Empowerment and Transformation for All
119. Network of Domestic Workers in Thailand
120. Network of Migrant Domestic Workers in Thailand
121. Network of NGOS of Trinidad and Tobago for the Advancement of Women
122. New Women Connectors
123. Ninu Chin Women Group
124. Nobel Women's Initiative
125. Odhikar, Bangladesh
126. Operation 1325
127. OutRight Action International
128. Passionists International
129. Pax Christi International
130. Pax Romana
131. Persatuan Sahabat Wanita Selangor
132. Project SEVANA South-East Asia
133. Public Services International, Asia Pacific Regional Office
134. Punjab Women Collective
135. Rainfall Feminist Women Group
136. Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary NGO
137. Rohingya Women Empowerment and Advocacy Network
138. RW Welfare Society - RWWS
139. Servas International
140. Sindh Nari Purhiat Council [Sindh Women Workers' Council], Pakistan
141. Sisters of Charity Federation
142. Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Office of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation
143. Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership
144. Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership
145. Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill Generalate
146. Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, Korean Province
147. Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, United States Province
148. Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
149. Somos la mitad, queremos paridad sin acoso - Perú
150. Suara Rakyat Malaysia
151. Synergie des Femmes pour les Victimes des Violences Sexuelles
152. Tavoy Women's Union
153. The Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women
154. The International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism
155. The Network of Chinese Human Rights Defenders
156. U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph
157. UNANIMA International
158. UNI Apro Women
159. Union de l'Action Feministe Morocco
160. United Domestic Workers of the Philippines
161. United Filipinos in Hong Kong (UNIFIL-Migrante-HK)
162. Urgent Action Funds
163. Verein zur Förderung der Völkerverständigung
164. Vietnam Committee for Human Rights
165. Vital Voices
166. VIVAT International
167. VOICE
168. Voice for Change, Papua New Guinea
169. We women foundation International, The Netherlands
170. We women foundation, Myanmar
171. We Women Lanka Network
172. WIN-Peace
173. Women Against Violence Europe
174. Women and Harm Reduction International Network
175. Women and Media Collective
176. Women Development Society
177. Women for Justice Foundation - Canada
178. Women for Peace and Justice
179. Women Graduates-USA
180. Women in Governance (WinG)-India
181. Women in Law and Development in Africa
182. Women in Response to Aids and Drug Addiction
183. Women Peacekeepers (WePeace) Philippines
184. Women Working for Social Progress
185. Women's Committee of the Federation of Hotel, Restaurant, Plaza, Catering, Apartment and Tourism - Indonesia
186. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
187. Women's International Peace Centre
188. Women's Network for Peace, Germany / Frauennetzwerk für Frieden e.V.
189. Women's Peace Network
190. Women's Refugee Commission
191. Women’s Organizations Network Myanmar