
ABCUSA Call to Prayer for Myanmar 2021

Statements and Correspondence



From the ABCUSA Burma Refugee Commission:

The Burma Refugee Commission (BRC) is a joint effort coordinated out of the ABCUSA Office of General Secretary which includes representatives of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies, International Ministries, the Regional Executive Ministers Council, Burmese Baptist Churches USA, Chin Baptist Churches USA, Chin Association of North America, Kachin Baptist Churches USA, Kachin American Baptist Association, and Karen Baptist Churches USA.

At the formation of the BRC (formerly the Burma Refugee Task Force), the priority was in assisting those from the diaspora to resettle in their new places, with a focus on building relations with American Baptists. Advocacy has been an essential function since the beginning with careful consideration to support the full extent of the diaspora population as well as our partners and friends in Myanmar, especially the family members of those living in the U.S.

Recently, the work of the Commission has focused upon advocacy following the political uprising in Myanmar. The Call to Prayer is an opportunity for all American Baptists to learn more about the dire needs of the people of Myanmar, to join in unison prayer for these needs, and to join in advocacy work.

Prior to issuing the Call to Prayer for Myanmar, the BRC sent letters of correspondence including information about our ABC relationship to Myanmar with specific recommendations for action to the following persons. Due to the sensitive nature of the letters, they have not been published here.

Washington D.C.

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Vice President Kamala Harris
Jake Sullivan, National Security Advisor
Anthony Blinken, Secretary of State

H.E. Ambassador U Aung Lynn, Republic of the
Union of Myanmar Embassy to the US
The Honorable Antony Blinken, United States
Secretary of State

U.S. Senators:

Jim Risch (R-Idaho), ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), top Democrat on the East Asia Subcommittee,
Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Marco Rubio (R-Fla.)
Ben Cardin (D-Md.)
Thom Tillis (R-N.C.),
Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.)
Susan Collins (R-Maine)
Dick Durbin (D-Ill.)

John Cornyn (R-Texas)
Jack Reed (D-R.I.)
Tim Kaine (D-Va.)
Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii)
Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio)
Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.)

Disclaimer: The statements and correspondence on the following pages represent a variety of perspectives from groups that have made a public expression regarding the situation in Myanmar that have been shared with members of the BRC. The views and opinions expressed in these statements and correspondence belong solely to the author or authors of each document and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of any other group, including the American Baptist Churches USA.

Statement of Concern Regarding Recent Events in Myanmar



We, the Leadership Council of Coordinators of the Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches, a group of American Baptist clergy and lay leaders representing Asian American Baptists in the American Baptist Churches/USA hold the citizens of Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, in our daily prayers, and wish to express our position concerning recent events in Myanmar:

1. We stand with citizens of Myanmar and our brothers and sisters in the Burmese diaspora in the United States, including many sister American Baptist ministries. Along with them, we have been horrified, angry, frustrated, and deeply concerned upon hearing of the Myanmar military's state of emergency announcement and coup on February 1, 2021.
2. We denounce the actions taken by the military in removing the duly democratically elected leaders from their rightful positions through the use of intimidation and force.
3. We call for the immediate release of all who have been unlawfully detained and an end to unlawful night raids, arrests, detentions and break-ins.
4. Further, we call for humanitarian assistance for all who have had to flee their homes as a result of the recent conflict. We urge that the financial and communications infrastructure remain open and in place.
5. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we express our deep concerns that the mass public gatherings and demonstrations in Myanmar will further exacerbate the spread of the virus, even as we support our brothers and sisters in protesting the current situation. We support the Civil Disobedience movement, and pray for safety.
6. Along with our brothers and sisters in the Burmese diaspora in the United States, we call upon all of our brothers and sisters of all backgrounds and nations, to unite with us in publicly condemning this oppressive rule in every way possible and in praying for a peaceful transition to a democratic society.
7. We urge our national and local American Baptist and other church leaders to join us in speaking out against all acts of violence, injustice, and to condemn all violations of human rights - from the pulpit, the pew, and all other possible venues.
8. We prayerfully call upon the military to reconsider their actions and move forward with a solution that brings about reconciliation, harmony, peace and the democratic rule of law in Myanmar.

We proclaim the Word of God, which states: “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus (Gal 3:28 NIV).”

For those who are able to take action in addition to prayer, you can take these steps to help: Write to the White House to ask for intervention to save lives: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>

Write to your US Senator or Senator Ed Markey, ranking member of the Committee of Foreign Relations' Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy. A template for your letter is [here](#).

Donate to the Myanmar Relief Campaign through the Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches. Please ensure that donations for this purpose are marked “Myanmar Relief.” Your donations will go directly to help our brothers and sisters in Myanmar who are living without shelter and food in midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Donations may be sent securely online [here](#) (write on the memo line: Myanmar Relief), or you can send in a check made out to AAABC to:

ATTN: Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches/Myanmar Relief
Japanese Baptist Church
160 Broadway
Seattle, WA 98122

Signed,

Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches



ASIA Baptist Women's Union

www.asiabwu.org

11th February 2021

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ, with peace and humility from Myanmar!

First and most importantly – THANK YOU! For your generous love, prayers and support toward the people of Myanmar, as we go through the most difficult time of our lives. I have tried many times to bring myself to sit at the table, focus and write a letter of appreciation, but it seems impossible to concentrate when the cries and chants of young people ring outside my hotel the whole day, as they fight for their rights, their future and against the injustice brought upon them.

I truly believe that because of international prayers from our Baptist family, as well as prayers from our Asia-Pacific community and sisters across Asia, we still have not seen the massive bloodshed and injuries that occurred in previous events.

We know that our living God hears your prayers and is protecting the people of Myanmar from harm and disaster, even though we are walking through the darkest valley imaginable.

The situation on the ground is very fluid and history has proven that it will be a long and arduous march for freedom and democracy. We, the people, need to be united and press on with this struggle for the sake of the next generation, our children and grandchildren.

People with guns think they have the power to intimidate, abuse and rob us from our democratic freedom, but little do they know we have a living God watching over us both day and night, never slumbering.

Please continue with your prayers for "if we ask anything according to His will, HE HEARS US." Your prayers has a lot of impact on all of us here in Myanmar; praising God day by day, not knowing what to expect tomorrow but with the assurance that our Creator is the Alpha and the Omega, fully in control.

Together, we will be able to accomplish our goals. The people of Myanmar can never thank all of you enough for the love and prayers, compassion and support shown to us. Our goal is for a child in Myanmar to able to grow up in a peaceful and stable environment, just like any other child in other parts of the world. God Bless!

Dr Vernet Myint Myint San
President
Asia Baptist Women's Union



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APBF

A Regional Organization of the Baptist World Alliance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 8th, 2021

STATEMENT OF THE ASIA PACIFIC BAPTIST FEDERATION ON THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN MYANMAR

The APBF which is constituted by 63 member conventions in 22 nations across Asia Pacific with over 33,000 members, part of the 47 Million Baptist among the Baptist World Alliance spread in 126 nations worldwide with 241 member bodies would like to express its deep concern over the state of emergency declared in Myanmar.

At a time when we are challenged by the spread of the Corona virus; when the economy of Myanmar needs a stable political environment for its continued growth; when an estimated one million people in conflict-affected areas in Myanmar are in need of humanitarian assistance, the recent unfolding of the coup brings great concern to the international community.

As a way to stand in solidarity with Myanmar Baptist Convention, and freedom loving people of Myanmar, the APBF would like to affirm the promotion of love, tolerance, justice, peace and freedom as key values in accordance with our scriptures – the Bible.

The APBF calls for the rejection of any oppressive ruling system that denies the tenets of our scripture. We empathise with our fellow members in their shock and disappointment at this change in the leadership and manner of rulership in Myanmar.

The Asia Pacific Baptist Federation calls upon the Military leadership, to immediately and unconditionally release the President, the State Counsellor and all other leaders of the government being detained.

We urge that democracy is upheld and a return to a democratic form of government. The Asia Pacific Baptist Federation, joins with the people of Myanmar, in praying for the re-emergence of a Republic of the Union of Myanmar, based on a Federal Democratic system, which enshrines the values of justice, inclusivity, respect for human rights and dignity and promotes peace and national reconciliation.

We call upon the international community to act with urgency and seek dialogue to bring reconciliation among the parties concerned and restore democracy and stability to Myanmar once again.

We join together in raising our voice in appeal and in prayer; praying for peace and reconciliation in Myanmar, for democracy to be upheld and restored and for the safety and protection of all citizens of Myanmar of all ethnicities from violence and brutality.

"In Solidarity with the people of Myanmar"

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www.apbf.org



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Burmese Christian Association of North America

မြောက်အမေရိကတိုက်မြန်မာရစ်ယာန်အသင်း

Mailing Address: 534 22nd Street, Oakland, Ca 94612

Website: www.bcana.net

Statement of Burmese Christian Association of North America (BCANA)

1. Burmese Christian Association of North America is the organization believing in God of justice, God of the oppressed, and God of peace and love.
2. We opposed the military coup and the detention of State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi, President U Win Myint, and all the detainees since February 1, 2021. We demand that they will be released immediately and unconditionally.
3. We are in solidarity with the people of Myanmar who are peacefully protesting against the military coup and condemn the use of violent force to suppress the protest.
4. We demand that the human rights and dignities be respected and also the freedom of speech and press will not be suppressed.
5. We sincerely hope for the smooth restoration of a legally elected government and to establish the peaceful and prosperous country.
6. We are earnestly praying for the justice, peace and reconciliation in the land of Myanmar.

Burmese Christian Association of North America

Member Churches Since:

2000: 1) Oversea Burmese Christian Fellowship, Boston; 2) Myanmar Baptist Church, New York; 3) Calvary Burmese Church, Washington D.C.; 4) Vancouver Burmese Baptist Fellowship, Vancouver BC; 5) First Burmese Baptist Church, San Francisco; 6) Burmese Christian Community Church, San Jose; 7) Burmese Christian Fellowship Church, Los Angeles; 8) Adoniram Judson Memorial Baptist Church, Los Angeles; 9) First Kachin Baptist Church, Los Angeles. CA.

2005: 10) Oregon Myanmar Christian Church, Portland Or; **2007:** 11) Myanmar Christian Church of Metro Chicago; 12) Oakland Burmese Mission Baptist Church, Oakland Ca; **2009:** 13) City Bible Burmese Fellowship, Portland, Or. **2011:** 14) Greater Houston Burmese Christian Fellowship, Houston. 2013: 15) First Burma Christ Church, St. Paul, Mn 16) First Baptist Church/Burmese Fellowship, Battle Creek, MI, **2015:** 17) San Diego Myanmar Community Church, Ca; **2017:** 18) San Francisco Bay Area Chin Christian Fellowship; 19) MCC Grand Rapids, MI.

BURMA: Letter to UN Human Right Council Concerning Ethnic Minorities

February 11, 2021

To: Member and Observer States of the United Nations Human Rights Council Regarding the Crisis in Burma

Re: Open Letter from Community Organizations Calling for Action Regarding Burma to Support Ethnic Nationalities and Prioritize Human Rights

Dear Excellences,

We are writing to express our deep concern regarding the continuing attacks and atrocities committed against ethnic minorities in Burma by the Burma military (Burma Army), the brazen coup d'état executed by the Burma Army on February 1 to subvert the results of a free and fair election and the Burma Army's retaliation against peaceful protesters since February 1.

The Burma Army's coup and subsequent violent crackdown on peaceful protesters demonstrate to the world what ethnic minorities have learned from decades of a brutal campaign against them: The Burma Army operates with complete autonomy and is guided only by its own self-interest. We urge the international community to act immediately and decisively to protest the Burma Army's long-standing and serious violations of the human rights of the people of Burma and to protect ethnic minorities and peaceful demonstrators exercising their fundamental human rights.

Specifically, we would like to draw your attention to the atrocities routinely committed against ethnic groups for decades and which continue unabated. Since January 1 of this year, the Burma Army has displaced over [5326 Karen people](#), after shelling villages and blocking humanitarian aid. Approximately [130,000 Rohingya](#) continue to fear for their lives as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Rakhine state; fighting incited by the Burma Army has displaced close to [236,000 Rakhine civilians](#) since 2018, and, on January 25, IDPs in Rakhine state were ordered to leave the camps sheltering them and relocate with no place to go. Conflict in Rakhine state has bled into neighboring Chin state, where more than [60,000 Chin IDPs](#) have fled violence. In Burma's Shan state, clashes led to the destruction and displacement of [1,000 villagers](#) December 2020. As of January 2021, over [104,010 in Kachin and northern Shan state](#) remain in displacement camps nearly a decade after being forcibly driven from their homes due to a ceasefire broken by the Burma Army. Though the Burma Army denied responsibility for the human rights violations documented by the CSOs on the ground, UN, international organizations and many others have proven otherwise. The Army also continues to forcibly conscript villagers as porters and guides, a practice often linked to other violations, including [torture and sexual abuses](#) as well as gender-based violence. While there may be less sounds of the guns, in Karenni state, the Burma Army has confiscated some [50,000 acres](#) of land from ethnic Karenni people, even [prosecuting farmers](#) who attempted to cultivate their stolen land. Similar issues exist in Mon state, where a single township reported over [7,000 acres](#) being confiscated by the Burma Army. It is evident that the Burma Army commits a multitude of violations, ranging from violence and atrocities to land-grabbing and forced displacement.

This laundry list of atrocities demonstrates that the international community must act now to protect lives in Burma, not only the lives of brave protesters who are exercising their fundamental human rights but also those of ethnic minorities who are threatened every day by military actions.

We, 165 Burma's ethnic organizations, urge Member and Observer States of the UN Human Rights Council in your February 12th Special Session on the human rights implications of the crisis in Myanmar to adopt a Resolution to:

1. Establish immediate and regular monitoring and evaluation of the situation in Burma, including by dispatching a delegation to Burma (including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar) to observe, document and report on the situation and by requiring regular reporting to the Human Rights Council and other UN mechanisms;

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2. Provide immediate humanitarian aid and direct cross-border assistance to adequately address the humanitarian needs of all IDPs and refugees suffering from ongoing Burma Army militarization and offensives;
3. Suspend all political and financial support to the Burma Army and the peace process, including the Joint Peace Fund;
4. Impose immediate sanctions against the Burma Army, both individually and as an institution, and against military-owned and -controlled companies and their affiliates, as recommended by the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar;
5. Support the establishment of a comprehensive response to ensure long-term federal democratic and human rights change in the country, including by ensuring support towards constitutional change that would bring the military under civilian control and ensure accountability for grave human rights violations.

Additionally, we call on the United Nations, Human Rights Council and Member and Observer States, both collectively and individually, to pressure the Burma Army to:

1. Stop offensives throughout the country, pull back troops in ethnic areas, respect the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement and proceed with political or tripartite dialogue;
2. Immediately allow all humanitarian aid to affected areas, including ethnic areas;
3. Immediately and unconditionally release State Counsellor Suu Kyi, President Win Myint and all arbitrarily detained political prisoners, including those who won seats in the recent 2020 election;
4. Cease all violence and use of force in response to protests, lift all declarations of Martial Law, curfews and other restrictions imposed under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedures Act and allow for the full exercise of the fundamental right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly;
5. Allow unrestricted access throughout Burma to all internet services, media platforms and other forms of communications;
6. Allow the parliament elected by the will of the people in November 2020 to take office and allow elected representatives to fulfil their mandate without impediment.

We thank you for your immediate attention to this urgent matter.

Should you have question, please contact us at: myradah@uscampaignforburma.org.

Sincerely,

Community Organizations inside Burma and Thailand-Burma Border

- 1 Back Pack Health Worker Team
- 2 All Arakan Students' and Youths Congress
- 3 Assistance Association of Political Prisoners
- 4 Association of Human Rights Defenders and Promoters
- 5 Chin Human Rights Organization
- 6 Dawn Peace Foundation
- 7 Future Light Center
- 8 Htoi Gender and Development Foundation
- 9 Human Rights Foundation of Monland - Burma
- 10 Humanity Institute
- 11 Humanity Institute Organization
- 12 Kachin Peace Network
- 13 Kachin Refugee Committee
- 14 Kachin Women Peace Network
- 15 Kachin Women's Association Thailand
- 16 Karen Affairs Committee
- 17 Karen Environmental and Social Action Network
- 18 Karen Human Right Organization

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- 19 Karen Lawyers Network
- 20 Karen Organization for Relief and Development
- 21 Karen Peace Support Network
- 22 Karen Refugee Committee
- 23 Karen River Watch
- 24 Karen Student Network Group
- 25 Karen Teacher Working Group
- 26 Karen Women Organization
- 27 Karen Youth- Rangoon
- 28 Karenni National Women Organization
- 29 Karenni Refugee Committee
- 30 Keng Tung Youth
- 31 Loka Ahlinn
- 32 Maramagri Youth Network
- 33 Myanmar People Alliance (Shan State)
- 34 NeT Organization
- 35 Network for Human Rights Documentation Burma
- 36 Pa-O Youth Organization
- 37 Progressive Voice
- 38 Research and Translation Consultancy Cluster
- 39 Shan MATA
- 40 Southern Youth Development Organization
- 41 Synergy Social Harmony Organization
- 42 Ta'ang Women's Organization
- 43 Women Leagues of Burma
- 44 Youth Circle

Community Organizations Abroad

- 45 Albany Karen community, NY, USA
- 46 Arakan American Community, USA
- 47 Arakan Institute for Peace and Development, Houston, TX, USA
- 48 Burma Center, Springfield, MI, USA
- 49 Burmese Christian Fellowship, Boston, MA, USA
- 50 California Karen Youth Forum, Oakland, CA, USA
- 51 California Shan Society, San Francisco, CA, USA
- 52 Chin Youth of Tomorrow, USA
- 53 Citizen for Burma Award, Boston, MA, USA
- 54 Dallas Kachin Community, Dallas, TX, USA
- 55 Dallas Karen Baptist Church, Dallas, TX, USA
- 56 Dallas Karen Community, Dallas, TX, USA
- 57 DEEKU, the Karenni Community, USA
- 58 Eastern Pennsylvania Karen Community, Philadelphia, PA, USA
- 59 Ebenezer Karen Baptist Church, St. Paul, MN, USA
- 60 International Campaigns for Arakan, Washington, DC, USA
- 61 Jury's Child Care, Cozad, NE , USA
- 62 Kachin Alliance, Washington, DC, USA
- 63 Kachin National organization US, Dallas, TX, USA
- 64 Kansas Karenni community, KS, USA
- 65 Karen American Association of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI, USA
- 66 Karen Association of Huron, SD, USA
- 67 Karen Baptist Churches, USA
- 68 Karen Baptist of West Chicago, IL , USA

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- 69 Karen Community in South Carolina, Columbia, SC, USA
- 70 Karen Community in Syracuse, NY, USA
- 71 Karen Community of Akron, OH, USA
- 72 Karen Community of Austin, Texas, USA
- 73 Karen Community of Charlotte, NC, USA
- 74 Karen Community of Georgia, GA, USA
- 75 Karen Community of Greensboro, NC, USA
- 76 Karen Community of Iowa, IA, USA
- 77 Karen Community of Kansas City, KS & MO, USA
- 78 Karen Community of Louisville, KY, USA
- 79 Karen Community of Minnesota, MN, USA
- 80 Karen Community of New Bern, NC, USA
- 81 Karen Community of North Carolina, NC, USA
- 82 Karen Community of Rochester, Rochester, NY, USA
- 83 Karen Community of Rock Island, IL, USA
- 84 Karen Organization of America, USA
- 85 Karen Organization of Illinois, IL, USA
- 86 Karen Society of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY, USA
- 87 Karen Society of Nebraska, NE, USA
- 88 Karen Student Association, Omaha, NE, USA
- 89 Karen Student Organization, St. Paul, MN, USA
- 90 Karen Student United Association, St. Cloud, MN, USA
- 91 Karen Youth Education Pathways, USA
- 92 Karenni American Association, St. Paul, MN, USA
- 93 Karenni Community of Bowling Green, KY, USA
- 94 Karenni community of Des Moines, IA, USA
- 95 Karenni Community of Georgia, GA, USA
- 96 Karenni community of Indianapolis, IN, USA
- 97 Karenni Community of Massachusetts, MA, USA
- 98 Karenni community of Minnesota, MN, USA
- 99 Karenni Community of Missouri, MO, USA
- 100 Karenni Community of New York, NY, USA
- 101 Karenni Community of North Carolina, NC, USA
- 102 Karenni Community of Portland, OR, USA
- 103 Karenni Community of Taxes, TX, USA
- 104 Karenni Community of Wisconsin, WI, USA
- 105 Karenni Society of Minnesota, MN, USA
- 106 Karenni-American Catholic Association, USA
- 107 Louisville Karen Baptist Church, Louisville, KY, USA
- 108 Lowell International Church, Lowell, MA, USA
- 109 Marshall Karen Community, MN, USA
- 110 Massachusetts Baptists Multicultural Ministries Inc, Boston, MA, USA
- 111 Mon America Association, USA
- 112 Nationalities Alliance of Burma USA
- 113 Nazareth Karen Baptist Church, St. Paul, MN, USA
- 114 Overseas Burmese Christian Fellowship, Allston, MA, USA
- 115 Richmond Kachin Community, Richmond, VA, USA
- 116 Rohingya American Society, Milwaukee, WI, USA
- 117 Rohingya Culture Center of Chicago, IL, USA
- 118 Rohingya Society of Greater Nashua, NH, USA
- 119 Tee Moo Ler Karen Baptist Church, DuPage County, IL, USA
- 120 The Urban Village, St. Paul, MN, USA

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- 121 Utica Karen Community, Utica, NY, USA
- 122 Washington Kachin Community, Seattle, WA, USA
- 123 World Rohingya Organization, Jackson Height, NY, USA
- 124 Zion Karen Baptist Church of Albert Lea, MN, USA
- 125 Zomi Innkuan USA
- 126 Zomi International Communities Organization, Tulsa, OK, USA
- 127 Mid-Atlantic Kachin Community, USA
- 128 Atlanta Kachin Community, Atlanta, GA, USA
- 129 Jacksonville Kachin Community, Jacksonville, FL, USA
- 130 Calvary Burmese Church, Washington, DC, USA
- 131 Calgary Karen Community Association, Canada
- 132 Canadian Burma Ethnic Nationalities Organization, Canada
- 133 Edmonton Karen Community Youth Organization, Canada
- 134 European Karen Network
- 135 Finland Karen Culture Association
- 136 International Karen Organisation, Australia
- 137 Kachin Canadian Association
- 138 Karen Community Association-UK
- 139 Karen Community in Norway
- 140 Karen Community of Canada
- 141 Karen Community of Czech Republic
- 142 Karen Community of Finland
- 143 Karen Community of Hamilton
- 144 Karen Community of Ireland
- 145 Karen Community of Israel
- 146 Karen Community of Kitchener & Waterloo, Canada
- 147 Karen Community of Lamington, Canada
- 148 Karen Community of Lethbridge, Canada
- 149 Karen Community of London, Canada
- 150 Karen Community of Ottawa, Canada
- 151 Karen Community of Regina, Canada
- 152 Karen Community of Saskatoon, Canada
- 153 Karen Community of Thunderbay, Canada
- 154 Karen Community of Toronto, Canada
- 155 Karen Community of Windsor, Canada
- 156 Karen Community of Winnipeg, Canada
- 157 Karen Community Society of British Columbia, Canada
- 158 Karen Swedish Community
- 159 Karen Thai Group, Thailand
- 160 Karen Youth of Norway
- 161 Karen Youth of Toronto, Canada
- 162 KNU Concerned Group, Burma
- 163 Korea Karen Organization
- 164 Korea Karen Youth Organization
- 165 Oversea Karen Organization Japan

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Meriam Sui Tin Tial

806-336-4083

contact@cyona.org

CYONA: Protest Against Myanmar Military (PAMM) at Washington D.C. Statement

Washington D.C. (February 3, 2021) - The Chin Youth Organization of North American denounces the military coup in Myanmar and the arrest of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, President U Win Myint, elected officials, and other civilian leaders. This coup d'état occurred as elected officials were preparing for the next parliamentary session.

On Monday, February 8, at 11:00 AM, the Burmese community across the nation will be protesting at Washington Monument Ground (2 15th St. NW, Washington, DC 20024) to express solidarity with the people of Myanmar and express our grievances. There has been local and statewide protests but this will be the first national level protest against the Myanmar military.

We demand that the military reverses their actions and immediately releases all detainees including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other leading members of her party and defend Myanmar's free, fair, and credible election, and take a leading role in the restoration of democratic rule in Myanmar. We also ask that the United States governmental officials condemn the military's action seize of power and demand the release of all detainees.

We urge the international community to gather in a unified response that condemns the military's action to seize power against the will of the people, expressed in the recent elections. All are invited to join us in supporting the people of Myanmar. We hope that through this assembly, we draw international attention to the issues in Myanmar. We encourage Burmese Americans and all allies to stay engaged with what is happening in Myanmar and continue voicing your support to elected representatives.

For more information, please visit us at: linktr.ee/PAMMatDC

RESOURCES TO SHARE 4

Statement by European Karen Network,

Thursday 11 February 2021

Karen in Europe Express Solidarity With Mass Protests in Karen State.

Tens of Thousands call For Withdrawal of Burma Army and an end to military rule

On Karen National Day, 11 February, the European Karen Network joins Karen people all over the world in renewing our calls for peace, national equality, and self-determination. We call on the Burmese Army to immediately withdraw their troops from our Karen areas and stop their attacks against our Karen people.

In Karen State, tens of thousands of Karen people from both Burmese government-controlled areas and Karen National Union areas join hands together, united in opposing the occupation of Karen lands by the Burmese military, and opposing the coup. Protesters demand the establishment of a genuine federal democratic Burma. Villagers in Taw Oo (Taungoo) areas hold protests in several locations in front of the Burmese Army's camps.

73 years ago on 11 February, our Karen people, suffering discrimination and inequality, took to the streets peacefully protesting. We demanded national equality and self-determination with our calls:

1. Give us Karen State, at once! (We want Freedom);
2. Show Karen one Kyat, Burman one Kyat, at once! (We want equality & democratic rights);
3. We don't want communal strife! (We want communal harmony);
4. We don't want civil war! (We want peace).

Our peaceful protests were met with bullets, bombs and repression.

Our Karen people have been suffering for decades under Burmese governments, during periods of civilian governments and military dictatorships. Many of us have been forced to flee our homes, hiding as displaced people in the jungle. Hundreds of thousands now live in refugee camps along the border of Thailand, or have had to find new homes all over the world. We all just want to go back home.

Currently, over 5,000 Karen people are hiding in the jungle without food, medicine and shelter, following attacks by the Burmese Army since December 2020. Humanitarian aid has long been restricted in these areas by the Burmese authorities. These are war crimes and crimes against humanity and must be met by strong international action to end impunity and prevent further abuses.

We call on the international community to listen to the voices of these grassroots people by demanding the Burmese military immediately stop their attacks and withdraw their troops in Karen and all ethnic areas. Donor governments should prioritise providing life-saving aid to internally displaced people through cross-border mechanisms.

We stand in solidarity with those resisting the military coup. All the people of Burma must work together for peace, human rights and a federal democracy in our country



G7 Foreign Ministers' Statement on Burma

Obtained from the U.S. Department of State website

The text of the following statement was released by the G7 foreign ministers of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States of America and the High Representative of the European Union can be found here: https://www.state.gov/g7-foreign-ministers-statement-on-burma/?fbclid=IwAR1bATiuKSxseJy2z_1UQVj7w9rglGoUpzh8t45cexCeQYK6nJn-VtDalCQ

Begin Text:

We, the G7 Foreign Ministers of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States of America and the High Representative of the European Union firmly condemn violence committed by Myanmar's security forces against peaceful protests. We offer condolences for the loss of life. The military and the police must exercise utmost restraint and respect human rights and international law. Use of live ammunition against unarmed people is unacceptable. Anyone responding to peaceful protests with violence must be held to account.

We condemn the intimidation and oppression of those opposing the coup. We raise our concern at the crackdown on freedom of expression, including through the internet blackout and draconian changes to the law that repress free speech. The systematic targeting of protesters, doctors, civil society and journalists must stop, and the state of emergency must be revoked. We continue to call for full humanitarian access to support the most vulnerable.

We remain united in condemning the coup in Myanmar. We call again for the immediate and unconditional release of those detained arbitrarily, including State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and President Win Myint, and continue to stand with the people of Myanmar in their quest for democracy and freedom.

End text



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International Myanmar Baptist Fellowship

Operational Office in USA: 534, 22nd Street, Oakland, CA 94612, USA

Statement

As a Christian organization, we firmly believe in love and peace, righteousness and justice of God which is the foundation of our faith.

1. We are deeply saddened and alarmed by the military coup that Took place in Myanmar on February 1, 2021.
2. We strongly urge the immediate release of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, President U Win Myint and all other detainees.
3. We stand with the people of Myanmar who are persistent in their efforts to protest against the military council who widely violate the rights of the people in Myanmar.
4. We firmly request the peaceful reconciliation and swift restoration of a duly elected government that espouses fairness and justice.

International Myanmar Baptist Fellowship

13th February 2021



Keys request to UN and International Community on Humanitarian Situation Regarding Military Coup in Myanmar on 1st Feb 2021 (8th February 2021)

Since early morning of 1st February 2021, the legitimate civilian government's leaders including the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Su Kyi and President U Win Myint and the people's representatives who were officially and democratically elected during November 2020 election, have been detained by the Myanmar Military, taking over the government and declaring that the country will be under state of emergency for one year. The Joint Strategy Team (JST)¹ and the Internally Displaced People from Kachin and Northern Shan States are deeply concerned with these events.

On 2nd February 2021, Northern Commander met with religious leaders in Myitkyina and explained their intentions under this coup, and asked them to convey the messages to their respective church members.

The military coup is severely affecting to the IDPs communities in Kachin and Northern Shan states. The military are taking more positions with armed troops and artillery, even in towns; and it has impacted on the transportation and movement of local people including IDPs. The civilian population is very worried, fearing that armed clashes will occur, particularly in Northern Shan State.

Accessing humanitarian assistance has been constrained since 1st February and it is a big concern in the current political setting, due to the increasing restrictions on movements, transportation, communications, banking system, etc. In some IDPs camps, the food support has covered only for January and the transportation to provide food particularly to Non-Government Controlled areas is a major concern and challenge. Moreover, IDPs are very confused on their plans of their possible Return and Resettlement and are very worried that they will be intimidated and pushed to return or resettle without any assistance or protection of their rights.

STATEMENT AND URGENT REQUESTS:

Considering these dire circumstances, the JST makes the following statement and *urgent requests to all those committed with Human Dignity and Human Rights and all the Stakeholders involved in this crisis:*

¹ JST is a group of committed, professional Humanitarian local NGOs providing comprehensive, strategic, principled humanitarian assistance to people affected by armed conflict in Kachin and Northern Shan States. JST has a long trajectory in strategizing and delivering principled humanitarian assistance in complex contexts and it is highly knowledgeable and exposed to the International Humanitarian System.

1. **JST opposes to all sorts of forceful mean of transfer of power and we urge to respect and restore immediately the democratically elected government.**
2. **International Humanitarian Law must be respected and safe and unimpeded Humanitarian access** for the organizations delivering humanitarian and COVID-19 related assistance is guaranteed. So that IDPs' rights are protected and they receive the humanitarian support required.
3. **The United Nations (UN) and the international community must stand firm with the people of Myanmar** in these circumstances, under the spirit of the UN charter and with a principled approach; ensuring that all UN agencies, offices and representatives protect the rights of Myanmar citizens and particularly the most vulnerable ones, as IDPs including Kachin, Northern Shan, Rakhine, Karan, Chin states, etc.

Joint Strategy Team (JST)

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Joint Strategy Team – Bridging Rural Integrated Development and Grassroot Empowerment (BRIDGE), Dai Fin Social Service (Dai Fin), Kachin Baptist Convention Humanitarian and Development Department (KBC-HDD), Kachin Relief and Development Committee (KRDC), Kachin Women Association (KWA), Kachin Development Group (KDG), Karuna Mission Social Solidarity (KMSS), Metta Development Foundation (Metta), Nyein (Shalom) Foundation and Wunpawng Ninghtoi (WPN).



JINGHPAW WUNPAWNG HKALUP HPUNG GINJAW

ကချင်နပ်စ်ဩင်းခရစ်ယာန်အဖွဲ့ချုပ်

KACHIN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Rg. No. 34/1950-51

Date - February 3, 2021

No - 37/G-1/KBC (2021)

“ KACHIN BAPTIST CONVENTION’S STATEMENT ”

1. Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC) is a religious institution, which unfailingly stands on the side of civilians and righteousness according to the teaching of the Bible.
2. Myanmar Tatmadaw's military coup on 1st February 2021 was a surprise. Moreover, because of unforeseeable consequences to come, we have got great concern over ongoing safe return of IDPs at this time of Pandemic.
3. Due to the belief of KBC, we demand for a government which is in favor of fair and justice. And we absolutely oppose the centralized authoritarian government.
4. For all civilians to reclaim their long-lost human rights and to possess peaceful and secured future, Kachin Baptist Convention prays for a government, which truly cares to work for civilians.

“Let justice roll down like a river.”

Amos 5:24

Kachin Baptist Convention



မြန်မာနိုင်ငံနှစ်ခြင်းခရစ်ယာန်အသင်းချုပ်

၁၄၃ - မင်းရဲကျော်စွာလမ်း၊ လမ်းမတော်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊

စာတိုက်သေတ္တာ ၅၀၆

မှတ်ပုံတင်အမှတ် ၃၄၊ ၁၉၅၀-၅၁

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Myanmar



မြန်မာနိုင်ငံနှစ်ခြင်းခရစ်ယာန်အသင်းချုပ် (MBC) ၏ သဘောထား ရပ်တည်ချက်

- ၁။ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံနှစ်ခြင်းခရစ်ယာန်အသင်းချုပ်သည် သမ္မာကျမ်းစာ၏ သွန်သင်ချက်များနှင့်အညီ ချစ်ခြင်းမေတ္တာ၊ တရားမျှတခြင်း၊ ငြိမ်းချမ်းခြင်းနှင့် လွတ်လပ်ခြင်း အတွက် အစဉ်အမြဲရပ်တည်သော ခရစ်ယာန်ဘာသာရေးအဖွဲ့အစည်း ဖြစ်ပါသည်။
- ၂။ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံနှစ်ခြင်းခရစ်ယာန်အသင်းချုပ်သည် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံနှင့် ကမ္ဘာတစ်ဝှမ်း Covid-19 ကပ်ရောဂါဆိုးရင်ဆိုင်နေရသောအချိန် ၂၀၂၁ ခုနှစ်၊ ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလ (၁)ရက်နေ့တွင် တပ်မတော်မှ အရေးပေါ်အခြေအနေကြေငြာပြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်အာဏာကို ရယူလိုက်ကြောင်း သိရသောအခါ ပြည်သူများနှင့်အတူ ထိတ်လန့်တုန်လှုပ်မှုများ၊ ဝမ်းနည်းစိတ်ပျက်ခြင်းများ၊ စိုးရိမ်ပူပန်မှုများ ထပ်တူထပ်မျှ ခံစားရပါသည်။
- ၃။ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံနှစ်ခြင်းခရစ်ယာန်အသင်းချုပ်သည် သမ္မာကျမ်းစာကို အခြေခံသည့် ဓမ္မသဘောတရားနှင့် ဆန့်ကျင်သော ဖိနှိပ်အုပ်ချုပ်မှုစနစ်ကို လုံးဝ လက်မခံပါ။
- ၄။ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံနှစ်ခြင်းခရစ်ယာန်အသင်းချုပ်အနေဖြင့် နိုင်ငံတော်သမ္မတနှင့် နိုင်ငံတော်အတိုင်ပင်ခံပုဂ္ဂိုလ်အပါအဝင် ဖမ်းဆီးထိန်းသိမ်းခံထားရသောသူအားလုံးကို ခြွင်းချက်မရှိ ချက်ခြင်း လွတ်ပေးရန် အလေးအနက် တောင်းဆိုပါသည်။
- ၅။ ငြိမ်းချမ်းခြင်း၊ တရားမျှတခြင်း၊ အမျိုးသားပြန်လည်သင့်မြတ်ခြင်း၊ အကြမ်းဖက်မှုကင်းခြင်း၊ လူ့အခွင့်အရေးနှင့် လူ့ဂုဏ်သိက္ခာကို လေးစားတန်ဖိုးထား၍ ဖက်ဒရယ်ဒီမိုကရေစီစနစ်ကို အခြေခံသော ပြည်ထောင်စုသမ္မတ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော် ဖြစ်လာစေရန် မျှော်လင့်ပြီး၊ ဆုတောင်းမေတ္တာပို့သလျက် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံနှစ်ခြင်းခရစ်ယာန်အသင်းချုပ်၏ သဘောထား ရပ်တည်ချက်ကို ထုတ်ပြန်အပ်ပါသည်။

၂၀၂၁ ခုနှစ်၊ ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလ(၅)ရက်။

မြန်မာနိုင်ငံနှစ်ခြင်းခရစ်ယာန်အသင်းချုပ်
Myanmar Baptist Convention



မှတ်ပုံတင်အမှတ် ၃၄၊ ၁၉၅၀-၅၁

မြန်မာနိုင်ငံနှစ်ခြင်းခရစ်ယာန်အသင်းချုပ်

၁၄၃ - မင်းရဲစန်တော်လှိုင်လမ်း၊ လမ်းမတော်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့

စာတိုက်ခေသတ္တရာ ၅၀၆

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Statement of the Myanmar Baptist Convention

1. The Myanmar Baptist Convention is a Christian organization that always stands firmly on the promotion of love, justice, peace and freedom in accordance with the teachings of the Bible.
2. The Myanmar Baptist Convention shares the shock, sadness and disappointment of the people brought about by the military taking over state power on February 01, 2021 after declaring the state of emergency in the whole country especially at a time like this when the whole world including our country is suffering greatly because of COVID 19 pandemic.
3. The Myanmar Baptist Convention rejects any oppressive ruling system that is against the teachings of the Bible.
4. The Myanmar Baptist Convention earnestly calls for the immediate and unconditional release of the President, the State Counselor and all other persons who are being detained now.
5. The Myanmar Baptist Convention issues this statement with the hope of the emergence of a Republic of the Union of Myanmar, based on a Federal Democratic system which values and promotes peace, justice, national reconciliation, non-violence and respect for human rights and dignity.

February 5, 2021

Myanmar Baptist Convention



မြန်မာ နိုင်ငံ ဓမ္မတက္ကသိုလ်

ဆင်းစိန်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့

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Website : www.mitheo.com

Statement of the Myanmar Institute of Theology

Date: February 6, 2021

Based on an official Statement issued by the Myanmar Baptist Convention to which the Myanmar Institute of Theology belongs, the Myanmar Institute of Theology hereby issues the following statement:

1. As our school theme, "Solidarity for Justice and Peace" goes, the Myanmar Institute of Theology is a theological Institute which always respects, stands for, teaches and practices justice and peace in the light of the living words of God as written in the Bible.
2. We firmly stand with the peoples of Myanmar who have freely expressed their will and sincere desires for the prevalence of justice and peace which is the way of Jesus Christ, in our country.
3. We condemn all the unjust, forceful, oppressive, authoritarian activities of the military regime that are leading to the control of people's power against the will of the majority people in Myanmar.
4. We strongly request that all detained civilians and leaders including President U Win Myint and State Counselor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, to be released immediately.
5. We will actively support and participate in the Civil Disobedience Movement and any other movement of the people of Myanmar that is done in non-violent ways to help promote justice, peace, reconciliation, human dignity, human rights, and freedom in our country.

The Myanmar Institute of Theology



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Open Letter from Community Organizations Calling for Action Regarding Burma to Support Ethnic Nationalities and Prioritize Human Rights

For Immediate Release

February 11, 2021

Media contact: Myra Dahgaypaw, U.S. Campaign for Burma +1 718 207-2556
Moon Nay Li, Kachin Women's Association of Thailand +66 85 625 1912
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(Washington, DC, February 11, 2021) – Today, 165 ethnic community organizations in Burma and from around the world sent a letter to the member and observer states of the United Nations Human Rights Council to call on their support for ethnic minorities and to prioritize human rights after the illegal military coup that occurred on February 1, 2021.

Human rights violations, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and mass atrocities committed by the Burma Army with impunity are well documented by community based organizations, civil society organizations on the ground, UN Rapporteurs, INGOs, and many others. For decades, the Burma Army waged campaigns of violence and executed clearance operations against the ethnic minorities, while inciting conflict with ethnic armed organizations. The extreme amount of abuses perpetrated by the Burma Army should encourage the member and observer states of the United Nations Human Rights Council to protest the Burma Army's long-standing human rights violations and to act with a sense of urgency in protecting the ethnic minorities.

While much of the international community's attention is focused on central Burma, the ongoing militarization continues to increase in ethnic states. The country's ethnic communities are still directly affected by the military coup. After the National League of Democracy came into power, it was clear the Burma Army still maintained its hold on the country and the brutal suffering of ethnic minorities continued without sufficient action from the international community. The fear of violence and the unknown continues to grow amongst the ethnic communities after the recent coup d'etat. The UNHRC needs to use their power and influence to ensure that the Burma Army ceases all forms of violence while taking decisive action to guarantee the safety of ethnic minorities and prevent further collapse of the situation.

"On Friday, as the UN Human Rights Council convenes to discuss the current state of affairs in Burma, it is important that the UNHRC remember the impacted communities who are suffering human rights abuses at the hands of the Burma Army. The UNHRC cannot forget that the military has targeted all ethnic nationalities for decades. In 2019, the UNHRC commissioned an independent fact-finding report that found that Burma's ethnic minorities universally experience human rights violations and severe discrimination at the hands of the very same Burmese military who staged the coup. The UNHRC should take the crimes of the Burma Army seriously and hold them accountable," said Myra Dahgaypaw.

After years of human rights abuses and no justice, the people of Burma deserve peace. Ensuring political stability, security, and democracy necessitates holding the Burma Army accountable for their crimes.

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Christian Conference of Asia

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Pastoral letter on the Situation in Myanmar

To:

The Members of the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) member churches in Myanmar, and the Myanmar Council of Churches

Dear brothers and sisters,

The World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) observe with alarm and great sadness the recent developments in Myanmar, which resulted in a sharp reversal of years of reforms for the democratic enfranchisement of Myanmar's people. It is with profound concern that we follow the current developments in your country, especially the abrupt resumption of military rule, overturning the outcome of elections on 8 November 2020, as well as the detention of key political and pro-democracy representatives and the escalation of the national situation to the state of emergency. We pray that the recent development will not lead to an escalation of violence and suffering in your country.

We urge a swift and peaceful return to the path of democracy, and appeal for the human rights and freedoms – including the freedom of religion or belief – of all Myanmar's people to be fully respected and protected.

We hold the churches and communities of Myanmar in prayer and solidarity, as you seek to provide counsel and comfort to your people in this time of deep anxiety and uncertainty for the future. We pray that the one who has given us "a new birth into a living hope" (1 Peter 1.3) will sustain and strengthen you in your efforts to be prophetic witnesses at a time such as this. We pray that you will be strengthened and supported in your ministry and witness for peace, justice and human dignity. It is our fervent prayer and hope that all parties involved to engage in meaningful and constructive dialogue which will lead to lasting peace and reconciliation in Myanmar.

In a spirit of solidarity we offer you the assurance of our continued prayers and support. May God almighty help us to be courageous and take refuge in the words from the second letter to the Thessalonians: "Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word," (2 Thessalonians 2:16, 17).

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Saucă
General Secretary

World Council of Churches

Dr Mathews George Chunakara
General Secretary

Christian Conference of Asia

February 3, 2021