

Letter from Office of the Auditor General of Norway to Justice For Myanmar, November 19, 2021

2021/00101-32

To: Justice For Myanmar

I refer you to your email, below.

First of all, we would like to thank you for raising these important questions and for giving us this opportunity to present our view on the matter.

This email present the views of the Office of the Auditor General of Norway. We would like to point out that IDI and OAG Norway are two different entities. We are of the understanding that IDI will present their views in a separate reply directly to you.

OAG Norway is the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) of Norway and is independent of the Executive.

To provide some background information on this issue we would like to draw your attention to the fact that the OAG Norway on the 23rd February 2021 sent a letter to the OAG Myanmar putting the then ongoing collaboration between the two organizations on hold due to the military coup that took place earlier that month. A copy of this letter is attached. OAG Norway has had an informal collaboration with ASEANSI for several years, with sporadic activities. Our collaboration has always been with the ASEANSI Secretariat, which is headed by SAI Indonesia. No MOU has been signed with the organisation. OAG Norway is purely a provider of technical assistance and dos not provide any financial support.

On your specific questions:

Question 1.

We would like to draw you attention to the fact that the development partner coordination meeting we participated in on October 26th was organised and chaired by SAI Indonesia as the head of the ASEANSI secretariat. We would also like to point out that we are not part of any multilateral project supporting ASEANSI.

Question 2.

As mentioned above, OAG Norway ended all collaboration with OAG Myanmar after the military coup and there has not been any communication after this. OAG Norway does not collaborate or communicate with any other entity in Myanmar.

Question 3.

As stated above, OAG Norway is not a financial donor. OAG Norway did not financially support the ASEANSI Summit and did not participate at the summit.

Question 4.

As stated above, OAG Norway is not a financial donor. OAG Norway has not provided any such financial support.

Question 5.

OAG Norway does not have any MOU or formal collaboration with ASEANSAI. We have provided support to the ASEANSAI Secretariat, which is headed by SAI Indonesia. The plans we have for future collaboration with ASEANSAI will be conducted with the SAIs heading the respective Committees, none of which is SAI Myanmar.

Question 6 and 7.

The engagement of OAG Norway with ASEANSAI on a technical level is in line with Norwegian foreign policy. No specific instructions or approval is needed for the OAG as an independent body.

Question 8 and 9.

Our analysis has been that the nature of the support we give is not of such a nature that it can cause human rights violations.

We acknowledge the fact that engaging with ASEANSAI while OAG Myanmar has the Chairmanship involves a risk of reputational laundering. We consider this risk as low related to a technical collaboration. Our collaboration with ASEANSAI is at a technical and not political level. We once again draw your attention to the fact that OAG Norway did not participate at the ASEANSAI Summit.

We will have a dialogue with the ASEANSAI secretariat on how to minimise the risk that our involvement is used for reputational laundering. Should we see that the risk is too high we have the option of discontinuing our involvement.

Question 10.

OAG Norway did not participate at the summit.

Question 11.

The activities we conduct with ASEASAI has no implications related to recognition of foreign states.

With kind regards,

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Head of the International Division
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