NEW REPORT EXPOSES 60+ FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTING THE ILLEGAL MILITARY JUNTA IN MYANMAR

SUMMARY

A new report provides details of over 60 foreign governments, intergovernmental organisations, foreign financial institutions and other international organisations providing support for the illegal military junta in Myanmar. The report, titled Developing a Dictatorship: How governments and international organisations are supporting the illegal Myanmar military junta - and what must be done to stop this, outlines the ways in which the military junta stands to benefit politically and financially through inclusion in international decision-making forums, development assistance, technical cooperation, loans, infrastructure projects and more. It includes 18 detailed case studies illustrating these forms of support and provides clear recommendations for what must be done to prevent the illegal military junta from gaining further funds, resources and power.

FAST FACTS

- Military junta has killed over 2,700 people and arrested over 17,000 more in Myanmar since its illegal coup attempt in February 2021.
- Those implicated in providing political and/or financial support to the military junta include: 22 foreign governments, 26 intergovernmental organisations (including 14 UN entities), 8 foreign financial institutions and 8 other international organisations.
- 18 case studies and numerous examples in the report provide details and evidence.
KEY ISSUES

In the report, the key issues and case studies which illustrate them have been categorised into four main categories of support for the military junta. These include:

- **political support** through diplomatic relations and actions that legitimise and enable the junta to take decisions on behalf of Myanmar in international forums;
- the transfer of knowledge and skills to the junta and those who serve their interests;
- **financial support** through development assistance payments, loan disbursements, and direct purchases from, or indirect business dealings with, companies and other entities controlled by the junta, as well as the development of infrastructure that may serve the junta financially and strategically; and
- **renting property** such as hotel rooms, office spaces and residences from military-linked businesses.

KEY FINDINGS

45 governments and international organisations have engaged in actions which provide political support, including:

- 12 signing agreements with, or presenting their credentials to, the military junta – including 5 United Nations entities;
- 27 allowing junta members to represent Myanmar at meetings and events – including 10 governments and 8 United Nations entities;
- 8 foreign governments’ representatives attending a junta-run military parade.

The report found significant increasing political support for the Myanmar military junta from the governments of China and Russia.

Japan and India also emerged as significant providers of various forms of support to the Myanmar military junta.

12 have engaged in technical cooperation. One case study found that Japan provided ongoing training to Myanmar military personnel and at least one graduate of the training programme has since been implicated in military attacks in 2021.

16 have engaged in actions which provide, or risk providing, financial support, including 3 major transport infrastructure projects financially backed by foreign
governments pushing ahead with development and construction despite the attempted coup and major risks of funds being misappropriated by the military junta.

11 have engaged in property relations that are likely to benefit the military junta. More than US$2 million has been spent at military-linked hotels since the junta’s attempted coup by only two governments – Australia and Norway.

Among the organisations named in the report, 13 have recently taken action towards ending their support for the military junta.

Significant legal consequences can result from supporting the military junta. In principle, under international law it is unlawful for a state to interfere in the sovereignty and self-determination of another state by recognising a government other than the one it has chosen for itself. As the military junta it is not a legitimate government, a liberated Myanmar could later seek remedy against those that recognised the junta.

Persons may be directly or indirectly breaching sanctions if monies paid end up in the bank accounts of sanctioned entities such as junta members or military-controlled businesses, risking financial and criminal penalties as well as reputational damage.

It is also possible that persons may be found to be complicit in the junta’s international crimes, including corporations where constructive knowledge can be made out.

Multinational companies engaging in acts of support and assistance towards the junta may also breach the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, giving rise to broad rights of complaint and remedy in one of fifty-one countries.

**BACKGROUND**

Following a democratic national election in November 2020, Myanmar military leaders staged an illegal attempted coup in February 2021. Since then, a military junta has seized control of key institutions.

**ACCESS THE REPORT**

Access the report here: [www.justiceformyanmar.org](http://www.justiceformyanmar.org)
ORGANISATIONS NAMED IN THE REPORT FOR PROVIDING SUPPORT TO THE MILITARY JUNTA

2021 Global Rural Development Forum
Advanced Leadership Foundation (ALF)
ASEAN Infrastructure Fund
ASEAN Supreme Audit Institutions (ASEANSAI)
Asia Pacific Forum (APF)
Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Bank of China
Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)
British High Commission in Kuala Lumpur
Chinese Government Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Colombo Plan Staff College
Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity
Embassy of China in Myanmar
Embassy of India in Myanmar
Embassy of Korea in Myanmar
Embassy of Norway in Myanmar
European Union (EU)
German Government Federal Foreign Office
Government of Australia
Government of Bangladesh
Government of Belarus
Government of Brunei Darussalam
Government of Canada
Government of China
Government of India
Government of Japan
Government of Laos
Government of Nepal
Government of Pakistan
Government of Russia
Government of Saudi Arabia
Government of Singapore
Government of Sri Lanka
Government of Thailand
Government of the United Kingdom
Government of Vietnam
Greater Mekong Subregion Economic Cooperation Program (GMS)

Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)
Indian Government Ministry of External Affairs
Industrial and Commercial Bank of China
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
International Committee of the Red Cross
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
International University of Japan
INTERPOL
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
Japan Self-Defense Forces
Japanese Government Ministry for Defense
Lancang Mekong Cooperation Forum (LMC)
Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law
National Defense Academy of Japan
National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)
Parliament of Japan
Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship by Japanese Grant Aid (JDS)
Russian Government Ministry for Defense
Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)
United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)
United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
Vietnamese Ministry of Information and Communications
World Bank
World Bank Group’s International Finance Corporation
World Bank Group’s Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
World Customs Organisation
World Health Organization (WHO)

* Note: There are 77 foreign governments and international organisations named in this report. 13 are ministries or other entities under governments that are named, therefore these are not counted separately in the key statistics provided above.