

The [Asia Pacific Partnership for Atrocity Prevention](#) (APPAP) and [Youth Core Group on Atrocity Prevention](#) Statement on Myanmar

April 21, 2023

The Asia Pacific Partnership for Atrocity Prevention (APPAP) is an alliance of organisations working to promote human rights and support atrocity prevention in the region.

The Youth Core Group on Atrocity Prevention (YCGAP) was established at the APR2P Youth Forum in Jakarta in 2019, with the vision to strengthen grassroots youth advocacy on atrocity prevention and the Responsibility to Protect (R2P).

APPAP and YCGAP express grave concern over the Burmese Military's recent airstrikes, on the morning of April 11, 2023, against civilians commemorating the opening of an administrative office in Pa Zi Gyi, a village in Kanbalu Township, Sagaing Region. This systematic and targeted bombing attack killed more than 130 civilians, including women and pregnant women, children, and the elderly.

This recent systematic and targeted bombing of civilians indicates that the Military may escalate its large-scale, organised violence against civilian populations, which it has been carrying out since the coup two years ago. The Military is committing atrocities of a growing number and intensity across Myanmar, many of which amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, according to the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, and the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar. Thomas H. Andrews, Special Rapporteur on the situation of [human rights in Myanmar](#), notes that since the coup was launched, more than 3,000 civilians had been killed; more than 1.3 million civilians had been displaced; more than 16,000 political prisoners were behind bars; and 17.6 million people were in dire need of humanitarian assistance.

Given the gravity of the situation, indications of escalating violence, the increasing number of victims, APPAP and YCGAP warns of a high risk of further crimes against humanity. Thus, APPAP and YCGAP call on the international community, through ASEAN, the UN Security Council, and other international bodies, as well as democratic nations of the world to:

- 1 Establish a solid and coordinated response among ASEAN, the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations Human Rights Council to end the escalation of systematic violence against civilian populations in Myanmar and protect the people of Myanmar and help to achieve an inclusive federal democratic union, peaceful and human rights-based solution in Myanmar;
- 2 Hold the military accountable for violations of human rights and other atrocity crimes;
- 3 Develop and coordinate responses to the situation in Myanmar through diplomatic, economic, and security relations, including support for civil society and local efforts in peacebuilding and protection of vulnerable populations;
- 4 Impose a comprehensive ban on all arms and aviation fuel supplies and sales to the military, as well as robust economic sanctions and financial penalties against the military and its businesses – especially the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise.

For further information, please contact:
Nikki Marczak Atrocity Prevention Coordinator
E: n.marczak@uq.edu.au

