



Oral statement at the 49th Session of the UN Human Rights Council

Item 3: Interactive dialogue on the High Commissioner report on Myanmar (Res 46/21)

Date: 21 March 2022

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Mr. President,

We wish to thank the High Commissioner for her update on Myanmar.

In 2021, an estimated 441,000¹ civilians became IDPs and 1,553 civilians were killed². By the beginning of 2022, the situation continues to deteriorate. Of grave concern, are the States of Chin, Kayah and Sagaing, where villagers are victims of military crackdowns leading to mass arrests, torture, rape and arbitrary executions. Homes and livestock are plundered and subject to arson; while crops are burned and sabotaged with faecal matter and harmful chemicals to ensure starvation. Communication lines are also demolished to prevent the outside world from learning about these atrocities.

As fatigued, famished and wounded IDPs flee their homes, the military pursue them into forests, sanctuaries and other villages; causing renewed displacement amid reduced access to food and medical supplies. Humanitarian workers who endeavour to assist them are at times beaten to death, while food aid is diverted for military purposes.

We implore the Human Rights Council to urge the *de facto* military authorities to:

- (1) immediately cease all acts of violence against civilians and
- (2) allow unrestricted and non-discriminatory humanitarian assistance for IDPs.

We also urge the international community to minimise the impact of sanctions on humanitarian organisations and enable aid delivery through effective exemptions.

Thank you.

¹ Myanmar Humanitarian Update No. 15 | 15 February 2022

² Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, [Recent-fatality-List-for-Feb-15-2022-English.pdf](https://www.aappb.org/Recent-fatality-List-for-Feb-15-2022-English.pdf) (aappb.org) last accessed 2 March 2022