

The ASEAN Human Rights Declaration Must be Guaranteed in Myanmar

In view of Myanmar's struggle towards democratic transition, the bloodshed and other human rights violations against men, women, and children that have occurred in Myanmar, since the Tatmadaw armed forces staged a coup against the democratic government on 1 February 2021. As of April 13, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) recorded that at least 3,054 people have been in detention, including politicians, pro-democracy activists, human rights defenders, and journalists. The international community, ASEAN need to take firmer steps to stop that situation before the crisis get worse.

Human rights are rights we have simply because we exist as human beings - they are not granted by any state. These universal rights are inherent to us all, regardless of nationality, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status. Human rights are inalienable. They should not be taken away, except in specific situations and according to due process. For example, the right to liberty may be restricted if a person is found guilty of a crime by a court of law. In the case that happened in Myanmar is unpeaceful and no more human rights. The civil disobedience movement is joined by health officers, teachers, civil servants, and groups of people who in previous years did not commonly join such movements. As the rallies have intensified, Myanmar's ruling junta has used violence to suppress the protesters with increasing numbers of casualties.

With current developments in Myanmar, we must encourage the roles of all key actors at the global, regional, and national levels. At the global level, we need to continue urging the international community to take immediate action to stop massacres in the country. At the regional level, ASEAN has an obligation to ensure the access of Burmese people to humanitarian assistance and facilitate people fleeing conflict per international human rights standards and the principle of non-refoulment. Relating to the latest coup, ASEAN should be particularly concerned with the excessive force being used by the military against their own people. If the violence continues unabated there is a danger of prolonged conflicts and instability in Myanmar, which could also invite external interventions, thereby undermining regional peace and stability as a whole. There are concerns that Myanmar could become like Syria. Therefore, ASEAN must pay greater attention to the important universal values contained in the ASEAN Charter, one of which is respect for and protection of human rights

and fundamental freedoms. One of the ways that can be it is imperative for Myanmar to open its door to dialogue with ASEAN, countries in the region, and the United Nations. Only through dialogue, mutual understanding on how the international community can assist and support Myanmar in addressing the present situation can be found. Notably, Indonesia as the largest country in Southeast Asia needs to make intensive diplomatic efforts to encourage ASEAN member countries to unite in urging the military government to end human rights violations and dialogue to resolve the conflict in Myanmar. And another way is the Military and Police should be an inclusive part of the democratic transition. They bear the responsibility to guard human rights and democracy. Any restriction towards rights and freedoms with a view to restoring normalcy should be proportionate and lawful. The safety and protection of all people in Myanmar are of the utmost importance.

In conclusion, apart from the state level it is the responsibility of all ASEAN members to deeply concerned and supporting Myanmar over the recent political situation back to normality through dialogue and mutual understanding on how the international community.

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