
POLITICAL RIGHTS AND THE SITUATION IN MYANMAR

1. Introduction:

Myanmar's current situation poses great challenges for seeking regional solutions to restore democracy and protect human rights in Asia. Coup d'état on February 1, staged by Min Aung Hlaing, commander-in-chief of Myanmar's armed forces. This event caused a wave of protests by people in Myanmar and the forces supporting Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi. Until now, the situation become more and more serious when demonstrates have been suppressed by military in Myanmar.. This has shaken up the danger of peace in Asia and attracted the attention of many countries around the world. Especially in Asia, urgent measures are needed to resolve the current tense situation, when people in Myanmar have to cope with the Covid epidemic and repression from the military.

2. Relate Rousseau's theory of the "social contract" to political freedom:

According to Rousseau in his "social contract", chapter 1, "MAN is born free; and everywhere he is in chains". Freedom is an essential condition for man to be his own master, but each individual, no matter how advanced, cannot fight nature alone, but must unite with each other. Therefore, that association leads to the formation of a society, and for that society to develop, there must be people who hold power and enforce the will or aspirations of the collective. According to him, a rational society is created only by the harmony of all participants. In other words, due to a social contract that everyone makes and abides by. In relation to today's society, the ruling apparatus is reasonable if it is trusted and accepted by the people. Therefore, the form of civil election was formed and widely applied across countries around the world. The right to political freedom helps people feel secure to live in a society they want and assigns leadership responsibility to the government so that they can lead the people in the best way.

3. Consequences of no political freedom in Myanmar

According to AAPP, updated 28 May 2021, (833) people are now confirmed killed by this junta coup and a total of (4350) people are currently under detention; of them (104) are sentenced. 1881 have been issued arrest warrants; of them 20 were sentenced to death and 14 to three years imprisonment with hard labor, who are evading arrest. The high number of

casualties shows that the people of Myanmar are under great pressure from the army (an agency established to serve the people). This goes against human rights and shows the military's domination in people's lives. In conclusion, when there is no consensus between the people and the government, the occurrence of conflict is the result of that event.

4. Which move is reasonable for Asean?

To protect regional peace, Asean should not interfere too deeply in Myanmar's internal affairs. There needs to be communication and understanding between the parties involved to resolve the situation in the most objective way. The best way to resolve political disputes is through dialogue to propose a way of conciliation. Besides, give priority to aid people against the Covid-19 pandemic and protect people's health. Myanmar need the aid of countries in Southeast Asia, especially Asean in donating vaccines against the epidemic. This helps to ensure people's health, prevent the risk of disease transmission from refugees, and avoid affecting regional countries. After that, send a special envoy to negotiate with the military government and ask them to release Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi in order to get a fair negotiation.

The next step for the solutions are based on the result of the negotiation between two opposing government, when these problems are clearly. It is necessary to collect the most reliable evidence that can assist Myanmar to get out of this crisis, limiting further casualties. In short, Myanmar's tense situation needs attention and support from Asean so that innocent people won't be affected, and to strengthen Asean's image in the world.

5. References

Jean Jacques Rousseau. (1762). Translated by G. D. H. Cole, public domain. *The social contract*. https://socialpolicy.ucc.ie/Rousseau_contrat-social.pdf

AAPP- Assistance Association for Political Prisoners. (2021, May 28). *Daily Briefing in Relation to the Military Coup*. <https://aappb.org/?p=15357>