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Women's Exchange

A Statement on the International Day of Peace

September 21, 2022

The Women Exchange was held on September 20, 2022, using an online platform to commemorate the International Day of Peace, which falls on September 21, 2022. The exchange was attended by over 90 representatives from member organizations of the Women's League of Burma and other organizations from our alliance.

In the Exchange, we discussed Women, peace, and security-related challenges and threats encountered by women following the 2021 February 1 coup and the current justice system and mechanisms in respective areas, and we explored ways to bring justice, accountability, and responsibility.

In the exchange, it was found that the military junta committed all forms of violence, including raping women, gang rape and murder, arbitrary arrest and unlawful detention, torture, killing, sentencing to death, using women as human shields, and other sexual abuses, following the 2021 military coup. In addition, it was found that women have been increasingly facing human trafficking, domestic violence, gender-based violence, and life threats in areas without law and order.

As the military junta is burning civilian properties, religious buildings, schools, and entire villages and air striking and shelling artilleries, many women and children have lost their lives and are injured. In addition, out of more than one million people displaced across the country, the majority of them are women and children. The military junta has been continually using rape and sexual violence as weapons of war extensively and systematically and is still enjoying impunity.

We, the Women's League of Burma, are deeply disappointed by the international community for ignoring and failing to take effective action against the military junta, which breaks international laws by committing war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity.

Therefore, to ensure justice for women victims and to hold the military junta accountable, we, the Women's League of Burma, urge the international community:

- Not to recognize and coordinate with the military junta by the international community;
- To respect, comply with, and implement the UN Resolutions;
- To transfer the military junta to the International Criminal Court (ICC) to account for their war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity;
- To impose effective targeted economic sanctions on the military junta; and
- To provide cross-border humanitarian assistance through community-based organizations.

Women's League of Burma