



## အမျိုးသမီးများအဖွဲ့ချုပ် (ပြန်ဟန်ငံ) WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF BURMA

### **Burma Summit: Security**

#### **Women's League of Burma**

Women's League of Burma (WLB) was established on December 9, 1999 with the aim of increasing the participation of women in the struggle for democracy and human rights, promoting women's participation in the national peace and reconciliation process, and enhancing the role of the women of Burma at the national and international level.

WLB is made up of 13 women's organizations representing women from different ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds. Collectively, WLB works for the advancement of the status of women and a peaceful, just federal democratic union of Burma.

#### **Security Situation in Burma/ Myanmar**

The military's violent attacks on communities in ethnic regions have extended into Bamar-dominated areas of Sagaing and Magway region, where the situation is currently extremely volatile.

All citizens in Burma / Myanmar are at risk of extreme violence from the military junta, however, women and girls are disproportionately impacted and face significant threats to their security. The military has carried out brutal attacks on women, including sexual violence, in ethnic areas for decades. During the 2017 Rohingya crisis, also women and girls were raped by the military junta. The only difference now is it is more widespread, the number of attacks has escalated, and there are even fewer protections for survivors.

The military junta is using rape as a weapon of war. Women have experienced an escalation in sexual violence with increasing reports of gang rape being committed by the Military in the villages they attack. The known cases of sexual abuse against women are only the tip of the iceberg, given the security issues in reporting.

Since the coup, 3128 women have been arrested, and nine of these women are facing the death penalty. Women who have been arrested and detained in military prisons are subjected to torture, sexual violence, and harassment by prison guards. Hateful prison conditions and the use of torture and degrading treatment have been signature practices of the Burma military for decades.

The military junta cut off telecommunication, food, money, and intelligence in Karen/Kayin, Karenni/Kayah and Chin states, and the Sagaing and Magway regions. These areas have experienced widespread airstrikes, indiscriminate shelling, landmines, and on-ground offensives with widespread torching of villages. The military

junta has burnt over 28,000 homes since 1 February 2021. The destruction of villages has resulted in an estimated 1,312,000 internally displaced people across the country.

At a moment's notice, villagers have to flee their homes when the military junta attacks their village. Women who are pregnant, the elderly, or women who have physical disabilities are unable to run and hide in the forest. Many are left behind and consequently are killed by military junta's soldiers.

Aggressive scrutiny is part of the Military junta's strategy to control the population through fear and violence. The investigation has a psychological impact that is a lived reality for all people in Burma/Myanmar. The Military junta has reportedly deployed China-made CCTV with facial recognition capabilities, making it easier for them to locate people on their arrest list.

An increase in the military's violent attacks is likely to continue. Leaked documents indicate the military has been arming extremely violent pro-military militia groups, known as Pyu Saw Htee in an attempt to instill fear through violence. An increase in Pyu Saw Htee presence has been especially felt in Sagaing and Magway regions, and other parts of the country that use to be military strongholds and free of conflict prior to the coup.

## **Recommendations**

WLB makes the following recommendations to the international community:

- Dispatch a well-equipped monitoring and intervention mission to secure the immediate and unconditional cessation of the military's violent terror campaign against the people to prevent further atrocities.
- Impose a comprehensive global arms embargo, with robust monitoring and enforcement mechanisms, to end the direct and indirect supply, sale or transfer of all weapons and other equipment that may be used for training, intelligence, and military assistance.
- Impose targeted sanctions against the military and its proxies to effectively cut off financial flows and endeavor to cut off supplies of aviation fuel to the military Junta.
- Support and stand with the people by refusing to engage with the military junta, and its proxies, work with the National Unity Government, as the legitimate representative of the people, and other groups working to build a truly federal democratic union.

## **Conclusion**

The violence will continue to escalate as the military junta strives to silence and control the population. The international community's response to Burma/Myanmar's calls to cut off the military junta's economic and resource supply is critical to the success of the resistance movement and the potential for peace and security in the state and region.

