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**To: UN Human Rights Council Member States' foreign ministers and their country missions in Geneva**

On 1 February, the Myanmar military seized power in a military coup d'etat and arbitrarily detained President Win Myint, State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and other civilian leaders. A year-long state of emergency was declared, installing Vice-President and former lieutenant-general Myint Swe as the acting President, who immediately handed over power to commander-in-chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

The coup has been met with nationwide peaceful demonstrations by the people of Myanmar demanding that the Military respects the outcomes of the November 2020 elections, restores the elected civilian government and releases all those who are arbitrarily detained, and that the Military be held accountable for its atrocities.

The junta has responded to these protests with systematic and violent crackdowns. The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar has described the junta's crackdown on peaceful protestors as crimes against humanity. Since the coup, over 755 people, including at least 43 children, women and medical workers have been killed so far in the junta's violence.

Also, over 4,496 people, including human rights defenders and journalists documenting the military's atrocities, civil society and political activists, and civilian political leaders have been arbitrarily arrested and detained and raided their offices and homes. Whereabouts of many who have been arrested remain unknown while several others have reported torture, sexual violence and ill treatment in detention.

Amid the growing opposition to the junta, the military has escalated its military offensives in ethnic areas displacing thousands of people and forcing many to seek refuge in neighbouring countries.

The junta has resorted to internet shutdowns, social media and media blackouts, disinformation campaigns, and disingenuous political overtures to counter the growing protest movement, silence opposition and hide and destroy evidence of its atrocities.

The unfolding human rights catastrophe in Myanmar will continue to worsen without timely, collective and coordinated action by the international community.

As someone who is concerned about the situation in Myanmar where the violations committed by the military could amount to crimes against humanity, I urge your government to intervene at all relevant UN forums to:

- Ensure that the will and voices of the people of Myanmar are represented and included in all UN discussions and decisions regarding the situation in Myanmar;
- Call on Myanmar military to respect the will of the people expressed in the November 2020 elections, restore the elected civilian government, release all those who are arbitrarily detained, refrain from using violence against peaceful protestors, and ensure all fundamental rights of the people of Myanmar;

- Call on the UN to immediately dispatch a delegation to the country to monitor the situation and prevent further atrocities, and help negotiate a democratic and human rights-based solution to the ongoing crisis;
- Use your position in all UN fora, in particular at the UN Security Council and Human Rights Council, to support enhanced monitoring and reporting of the unfolding human rights crisis in Myanmar;
- Call on relevant UN organs and bodies, in particular the UN Security Council, to impose targeted financial sanctions on the military, including its businesses and its associates in a manner that respects human rights and gives due consideration to any negative socio-economic impact on the ordinary civilian population, as recommended by the UN Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar;
- Call on the UN Security Council to impose a universal embargo on the transfer or sale of military arms and equipment to Myanmar; and
- Use all diplomatic leverage and establish a comprehensive response to ensure long-term democratic and human rights change in the country;
- Hold the Myanmar military accountable for violations of international human rights and humanitarian law including genocide against Rohingya and war crimes and crimes against humanity against ethnic communities.

Yours sincerely,

Your Name