



SC Chair Report

Addressing the Ongoing Conflict in Myanmar

Chair: Christophe Cannon

Deputy Chair: Eric Warburg

Personal Statements



Chair – Christophe Cannon

Hello,

I'm Christophe and I'm going to be serving as the chair for SC at MUNISS 2024. I'm currently 15 years old and I'm currently in grade 10. So far I have attended 9 MUN conferences and have chaired 5 of them, including THIMUN. I am personally really passionate about human rights and environmental issues. I am also passionate about increasing the number of Bow-ties for MUN conferences as there is a distinct lack of them in the MUN world. For those of you who have not attended MUNISS

before, MUNISS is a yearly conference hosted by the International school of Stuttgart with a variety of different committees for different levels of MUN experience. About This year in the security council the 3 topics being discussed are, **The Conflict in Israel and Palestine, Addressing the Ongoing Conflict in Myanmar, and Ensuring Maritime Security in the Red Sea.** Three challenges that will require diligence and careful solutions. However the powers possessed by the Security Council we have no doubt that an agreeable solution will be found. Remember to use those Veto powers responsibly.

Deputy Chair – Eric Warburg

Good day,

I'm Eric and I will be your Deputy Chair for the Security Council. I am 16 years old and am in 11th grade at the International School of Hamburg in Germany. To date, I have attended only one MUN conference, being THIMUN but am leading MUN at our school. MUNISS is a yearly conference hosted by the International School of Stuttgart.



It hosts a wide range of committees for both beginners, intermediates and experts at MUN debating. In the SC this year we will be discussing **The Conflict in Israel and Palestine, Addressing the Ongoing Conflict in Myanmar, and Ensuring Maritime Security in the Red Sea.** These are very moving and challenging to understand topics since they are not only ongoing but also involve a good historical understanding. However I believe with the correct research we will be able to have a very constructed, fruitful and tense debate.



Introduction

The situation in Myanmar has created large social unrest in the country since the military coup in 2021. This has led to an increase in Human Rights violations, killings, food shortages, fall of the idea for democracy in Myanmar and much more. The military coup in Myanmar in 2021, which removed the civilian government led by the National League for Democracy (NLD) on February 1, had profound repercussions for the country. This abrupt political shift restricted Myanmar's democratic progress, worsening existing humanitarian crises such as the October 2023 Monsoon Flood and violence against vulnerable groups such as the Rohingya minority. Following the coup, there has been increased violence, arrests of political figures, activists, and economic instability due to declining foreign investment. This instability has not only discouraged investors and slowed economic growth, but it has also created a challenging environment for Myanmar's people, marked by political unrest, human rights violations, and economic insecurity. There have been multiple attempts by the UN for resolutions to stop the Human Rights abuses in Myanmar, though the problem still is persistent. ("Myanmar Humanitarian Update No. 33 | 2 October 2023")(Petty and Davies)

Glossary

Aung San Suu Kyi is a recognised pro-democracy activist and former leader of Myanmar. In 1989, the military Junta placed her under house arrest for 15 years before awarding her the Nobel Peace Prize. Aung San Suu Kyi later became a member of parliament in 2012 and led the National League for Democracy to a landslide victory in 2015. However, she faced charges of corruption and was imprisoned following the military coup of 2021.

Min Aung Hlaing, Myanmar's current leader, led the military coup in 2021 and declared a state of emergency. He had previously worked closely with Aung San Suu Kyi, but played a crucial role in orchestrating the military takeover.

The Rohingya minority, a Muslim group in Myanmar, who fell victim to Genocide by the Military in 2016-17. Myanmar does not recognize the Rohingya as Burmese citizens.

The National Unity Government (NUG) was formed as a government in exile following the military coup in 2021. It opposes the military Junta and includes a number of pro-democracy organizations.

The People's Defence Force is the NUG's armed wing, which consists of local militias fighting the military Junta. They have engaged in brutal battles against the Junta in various regions of Myanmar.



Tatmadaw. Myanmar's armed forces are known as the Tatmadaw, or military junta. They seized power through a coup in 2021, resulting in widespread human rights violations and political repression.

Issue Explanation

A military coup in 2021 triggered a significant change in the political climate of Myanmar. In a coup d'état on February 1, the civilian government, led by the National League for Democracy (NLD), was overthrown by the country's armed forces, the Tatmadaw. This sudden change in politics has halted Myanmar's effort to shift towards a democracy after years of military rule. The military coup increased Myanmar's already severe humanitarian crisis, including the October 2023 Monsoon Flood that displaced 2 million people, and killings to vulnerable populations such as the Rohingya minority. The power shift resulted in more violence, arrests of political leaders, activists, and journalists, and a crackdown on resistance. (“Myanmar Humanitarian Update No. 33 | 2 October 2023”)

The coup increased shortages of resources and delayed humanitarian efforts, worsening the conditions of those already affected by conflict and displacement. Moreover, the coup has had a significant economic impact, with foreign investment declining, businesses facing uncertainty, and livelihoods disrupted. The coup's instability has deterred investors and slowed economic growth, contributing to the country's economic problems and affecting ordinary citizens' livelihoods. The combination of political unrest, human rights violations, and economic insecurity has created a difficult environment for Myanmar's people. (Petty and Davies)

The aftermath of Myanmar's 2021 military coup poses significant risks that proceed beyond the country's borders. Continued political instability and military rule undermine democratic principles in Myanmar, but they also have regional and global implications. Myanmar's decline of democratic institutions and the rule of law sets a dangerous precedent for other countries in the region with fragile democratic transitions and authoritarian tendencies. The continuation of conflict, human rights violations, and political repression following the coup could have a negative impact on regional stability. The influx of thousands of Burmese refugees into neighboring countries such as Bangladesh and Thailand has put a strain on resources and created social tensions, affecting the region as a whole. The influx of refugees may exacerbate host countries' already-existing challenges with poverty, healthcare, and security, potentially leading to social unrest and political instability. Furthermore, the military coup in Myanmar has raised concerns about authoritarianism's spread and the implications for global peace and security. The lack of respect for democratic norms and human rights in Myanmar may inspire other authoritarian regimes to disregard international standards and norms, undermining global efforts to promote democracy and protect human rights. (“Myanmar coup: Thousands of Burmese flee to Thailand after intense fighting”)



History of the Topic

Myanmar's 2021 military coup was an important turning point that derailed the country's fragile transition to democracy. This coup resulted in widespread protests, civil disobedience, and persistent armed resistance to military rule. Following the coup, dismissed lawmakers and activists formed the National Unity Government to oppose the junta and promote unity among Myanmar's various ethnic groups. From an economic perspective, Myanmar has long been poorer than most of its neighbors, due to isolationist policies supported by the military junta, economic mismanagement, ongoing conflict, and other issues. The country's poverty rate fell dramatically, from 48 percent in 2005 to 25 percent in 2017, but many of these gains are now being reversed due to the pandemic-induced economic downturn and political unrest that followed the coup. The UN Development Programme warns that Myanmar will enter a period of deprivation uncommon in decades, with the poverty rate expected to rise compared to pre-pandemic levels. (McKenna, Coup D'etat) During this time, Myanmar underwent significant political changes. In 2010, the country held its first elections in two decades, and the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) won. Opposition groups called the election fraudulent. Aung San Suu Kyi, the pro-democracy leader, has been released from house arrest. President Thein Sein took office in 2011, signaling the end of military rule and the establishment of a nominally civilian government. The government implemented reforms, including the suspension of the controversial Myitsone hydroelectric dam project and the release of political prisoners. Aung San Suu Kyi's participation in politics gained momentum, and international relations improved as the US engaged with Myanmar. ("Timeline: Reforms in Myanmar")

Foreign investment has declined significantly since the coup, with many foreign firms leaving due to constraints, civil unrest, and sanctions. China has emerged as Myanmar's most important trading partner and diplomatic ally. Following the coup, Beijing granted de facto recognition to the military leaders. China's interests include protecting its infrastructure projects and investments in Myanmar, preventing civil war near its borders, maintaining influence over the junta in the face of increasing Russian involvement, and limiting involvement by leading democracies such as the United States. ("Myanmar's connected Cultures") ("Maizland and Kurlantzick")



Any Previous Attempts

UNGA-Res-78-2023

The United Nations General Assembly resolution, passed on December 19, 2023, strongly condemns human rights violations against Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar, particularly following the 2021 emergency declaration. It calls for an immediate cessation of violence, the release of detainees, and the resolution of the crisis's underlying causes, while reaffirming support for Myanmar's democratic aspirations and the rebuilding of democratic institutions. (“Res - 78 - 2023”)

UNGA-Res-76-2021

The United Nations General Assembly resolution A/C.3/76/L.30/Rev.1 addresses the human rights situation of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar, emphasizing states' primary responsibility to respect, protect, and implement human rights. It draws on previous resolutions to highlight ongoing concerns and calls for adherence to international law, condemning human rights violations and advocating for democratic transition and international efforts to end the crisis. (“Res - 76 - 2021”)

Human Rights of the Rohingya

This resolution addresses the human rights situation of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar, calling for human rights protection, the safe return of displaced minorities, and the provision of humanitarian aid to affected communities. Due to there still being vast amounts of Rohingyas refugees, it is to say that the resolution has not been effective in the last 3 years. (“Rohingya Refugee Crisis Explained”) (“Human Rights Council Adopts Five Resolutions, Including on the Implementation of Resolution 31/36 and on the Human Rights of Rohingya Muslims and Other Minorities in Myanmar”)

Resolution 2699 (2022)

The Security Council's resolution 2669 (2022) calls for an immediate cessation of violence in Myanmar, the release of arbitrarily detained prisoners, including key political figures, and a commitment by all parties to respect human rights and dialogue. It emphasizes ASEAN's critical role in resolving the crisis and requests a report on the UN's assistance to ASEAN's efforts by March 2023. (“Security Council Demands Immediate End to Violence in Myanmar, Urges Restraint, Release of Arbitrarily Detained Prisoners, Adopting Resolution 2669 (2022) | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases”)



Media Contribution

The media has played an important role in shaping public opinion and distributing information in Myanmar, especially since the 2021 military coup. The coup altered the media landscape, making it difficult for people to obtain independent news and information. Mainstream media outlets, such as Mizzima and DVB, are trusted sources, but they frequently struggle to provide hyperlocal information. As a result, people are increasingly relying on social media platforms such as Facebook for news, despite growing concern about the dangers of expressing political opinions online. The military's crackdown on independent media has resulted in increased media literacy among the population, with people fact-checking information and taking steps to protect their online identities. (“Understanding media audiences in post-coup Myanmar | IMS”) (Kironka) (Dolan)



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