

I am speaking on behalf of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, and KSBSI Indonesia. As the Committee of Experts notes, 'freedom of association can only be exercised in conditions in which fundamental human rights are fully respected and guaranteed' [\[1\]](#). It is clear that since the military coup in Myanmar in February 2021, fundamental rights and civil liberties have been under attack:

- As of today, the military junta has killed 1876 people since the start of the coup. It has arrested, charged or sentenced 10,847 people for participating in the Civil Disobedience Movement, which has been going on for over a year, despite the repression, and at least 1,979 charged workers, trade unionists, activists and protesters have been forced into hiding since the coup. [\[2\]](#)
- The crimes against humanity committed by the military include murders, persecutions, imprisonments, sexual violence, enforced disappearance and torture. They are systematic and may qualify as war crimes. [\[4\]](#)
- Since November 2021, the military has intensified airstrikes and ground attacks in regions where the CDM protesters, workers, and trade union activists are taking refuge to avoid arrest. UN agencies have confirmed that the military deploys heavy artillery, tanks, helicopters, jet fighters and surveillance drones in ground attacks and airstrikes to indiscriminately kill civilians, as well as to shell and destroy civilian villages, churches and refugee camps. [\[3\]](#)
- The military have occupied public hospitals, attacked healthcare workers, damaged, raided and confiscated medical equipment, drugs and oxygen cylinders. More and more healthcare staff have gone into hiding as the military has revoked the license of doctors and health workers who have joined the CDM, and cancelled the business license of the clinics and hospitals they work in.
- The military have attacked freedom of expression and attempted to restrict access to information by cutting access to mobile data at night and ordering internet service providers to suspend wireless broadband services, leaving intermittent fixed line connection as the only avenue to access the internet. Freedom of the press is non-existent, following the cancellation of 5 independent media licenses on 8 March 2021, and the outlawing of organisations documenting the military's atrocities such as the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners Burma for supposedly inciting public panic, riots and harming state stability. [\[5\]](#) The junta has killed at least 3 journalists and imprisoned 26 journalists since the coup. [\[6\]](#)

These are just a few examples of the violations of civil liberties perpetrated by the military authorities, that show the SAC's complete disregard for human and labour rights. Attacks on workers and civilians and the violations of human rights must cease immediately. The international community must hold the SAC accountable for the gross violations of human rights, including the right to freedom of association; enact sanctions and cease the flow of arms to Myanmar to stop the atrocities; and recognise the National Unity Government as the official and legitimate Government of Myanmar.

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[1] P. 261, Myanmar 87 CEACR 2022

[2] <https://aappb.org/>

[3] OHCHR (22 Feb 2022) [New report reveals weapon transfers to military junta by UN Member States](#)

[4] [Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar](#) (1 February 2022)

[5] Ministry of Home Affairs of the State Administration Council, Human Rights Watch, 30 April 2021, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/04/30/myanmar-end-threats-against-rights-group>

[6] CPJ (Accessed on 23 May 2022) <https://cpj.org/asia/myanmar/>

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[CM1] Update figures on the day