

Submission – Thinzar Shunlei Yi (Advocacy Coordinator at ACDD, Founder of Sisters 2 Sisters)

Mangala Bar to the honorable members of the International Parliamentarian Inquiry.

I greatly appreciate this initiative and I would like to echo the message that “inaction is no option.” On this occasion, I would like to raise 3 issues regarding Myanmar’s revolution.

First – the atrocities happening in Myanmar are not just a by-product of the recent coup attempt. They are the results of decades of impunity enjoyed by a corrupted military that has betrayed its own purpose, which is to serve the people of the nation. **Killers and looters within the military have had nothing to fear; there is no justice or accountability.**

June 9th marks the 11th anniversary of the re-started civil war in Kachin State. The number of IDPs in northern Myanmar and around the country is growing. A new report titled [“New Threats from the Air”](#) provides evidence and maps that show how the military troops from the notorious assault divisions ID 33, ID 88 and ID 99, have fired artillery shells directly into civilian areas. Thirteen shelling incidents during the past six months killed eight villagers and injured twenty, including six children. In the eastern part of Myanmar, Karenni State alone, the airstrikes, coupled with indiscriminate shelling by the junta’s troops, has killed 250 people since the attempted coup.

Reports also provide evidence of ongoing impunity for sexual violence by military troops. A rape attempt by a SAC soldier in Kutkai on April 12 took place only a few kilometers from where a soldier from the same battalion raped an elderly woman in November last year.

The military has long been using sexual violence as a tool systematically and nationwide to repress the resistance forces. And till today, women, esp. young women protestors and women from resistance areas are still facing tremendous sexual assaults including gang rapes, and online/offline GVB. The military tried to silence the victims’ voices but I want you to know that survivors continue to resist, report their abuses, and Individually, women are doing everything they can to make sure that justice will prevail with the revolution. **We need the global justice mechanism to spin faster than ever before these perpetrators inspire other dictators around the world.**

My second main point is what we are witnessing in Myanmar is a revolution, not just post-coup protests or anti-coup movements. We are undertaking a revolution that is vibrant, diverse, inter-generational, and cross-sectoral.

The revolution we are undertaking is regenerating the idea of federal democracy which is long due in Myanmar. Till 506 days since the coup attempt, it is the young people who have been the vanguard of democratic resistance leading the protests. Last week on [Monday and Tuesday, the Junta arrested 41 protestors in Yangon including our members of the General Strike Committee.](#) Last month in Yangon, the Junta run the military truck into the crowd of flash-mob protestors and hit the people, and arrested 8 protestors violently. And in rural areas, protests are almost impossible without the protection of the defense forces. Yet, the strike committees are still organizing communities, mobilizing people, and protesting on an almost daily basis defying the politics of fear and oppression and yes, paying a high price. **The young people as human rights defenders are reclaiming the space and freedom of expression at a high cost.**

My last point is these atrocities have proven to the world and to the people of Myanmar that the current military as a state institution is no more. **But a fascist institution that needs to be dismantled and replaced.** We need to call spade a spade so that we can find the solution for sustainable peace in Myanmar. *Myanmar's situation is complex, but the solution has always been simple. Myanmar urgently needs a political system that does **guarantee Justice and accountability, ends impunity, and embraces the freedom of expression.***

End.

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