

To
Minister Elina Valtonen
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Government of Finland

Councillor Ignazio Cassis
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
Government of Switzerland

10 November, 2023

Subject: Finland and Switzerland must stop lending legitimacy to Myanmar military junta and its sham peace efforts

Dear Minister Valtonen and Councillor Cassis,

We, 661 civil society organizations – call on the Governments of Finland and Switzerland to end all engagements with and support of the Myanmar military junta, particularly its sham peace efforts. We urge Finland and Switzerland to instead support the people of Myanmar's ongoing efforts towards inclusive federal democracy and sustainable peace.

First, we have learned that the Government of Finland, through the CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation, recently invited members of the Myanmar military junta's so-called Peace Committee to a secret meeting in Helsinki, Finland, and met with them there – all while the junta is deliberately targeting and killing civilians across the country.

By bringing junta representatives to Helsinki, the Finnish Government has signaled its recognition, acceptance, and support of the junta – in complete violation of democratic principles and most importantly, the will of the people of Myanmar.

Let us be clear: The people of Myanmar are not merely in a political disagreement with the illegal and illegitimate military junta. Since its failed coup of 1 February 2021, the junta has [killed](#) at least 4,174 people, as of 6 November 2023, and over 1.7 million people have been internally [displaced](#). In recent months, the junta has ramped up its use of airstrikes to terrorize and murder Myanmar civilians across the country. From May to August 2023 alone, the junta [launched](#) 272 airstrikes, amounting to at least two airstrikes per day – killing 72 civilians and injuring 163, as well as damaging schools, medical facilities, and religious buildings.

By supporting and lending legitimacy to the murderous junta, the Finnish Government has failed to uphold its international obligations to protect the people of Myanmar and has undermined Myanmar people's resistance movement in defense of democracy and human rights. Finland's actions have also undermined international sanctions targeting the junta and emboldened the junta to continue its mass atrocity crimes against Myanmar civilians with blanket impunity.

Second, we have also learned that the Government of Switzerland, in conjunction with the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and Swisspeace, organized a workshop on the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) peace process in Naypyitaw from October 16 to 18, 2023.

By supporting the junta's futile and sham NCA efforts, the Swiss Government not only lends legitimacy to the junta, but also prolongs the junta's relentless violence that is attempting to force the people of Myanmar back under military dictatorship.

The failed NCA is completely irrelevant in addressing Myanmar's multi-faceted crisis. In fact, support for the NCA emboldens the junta and worsens the unfathomable devastation in Myanmar, as the military is the source of violence and the root cause of the crisis. As declared by three original signers of the NCA, the military junta's illegal coup attempt and its use of extreme violence against civilians have violated and invalidated the NCA, particularly its principle of non-violence.

From its start, the NCA has never been a praiseworthy, genuine peace deal, as its original process was deeply flawed and exclusive. Today, the ethnic armed organizations that continue to engage with the junta's futile NCA efforts do not hold territory, have significant troop numbers, nor hold the mandate to represent their people. Any actions of the junta related to the NCA are thus illusory and invalid, and must be denounced by the international community.

Third, we have further learned that Switzerland and Finland are trying to provide humanitarian assistance through the Technical Secretariat Center (TSC), a working group of the Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee (JMC), in collaboration with a few other countries.

Humanitarian aid provided through junta-controlled channels, such as the JMC and TSC, will not reach the people in need and will instead lend legitimacy to the illegal junta, bolster its violence against civilians, and whitewash its mass atrocity crimes.

Switzerland and Finland know very well that the military currently controls both the JMC and TSC, as it has in the past. When the JMC was first formed, the pre-existing civilian ceasefire monitoring was banned, and today, the junta's control overrides any civilian voices more so than ever before. Indeed, since their formation, the JMC and TSC have never functioned to aid civilians – and never will.

Rather than deliver aid to the people, the junta will only continue to weaponize the aid provided through the TSC, blocking aid deliveries, attacking humanitarian workers, and lining its pockets to continue its violence. Aid provision through the TSC also stands to hinder other avenues for aid delivery, namely cross-border channels that support locally led, frontline humanitarian responders throughout Myanmar.

Overall, we are appalled to learn that Switzerland and Finland are pursuing these unethical initiatives that allow the junta to continue its war of terror against Myanmar's people. In asymmetric conflict, the oppressor – here, the military junta – cannot be an equal or trusted partner at any negotiation table. As European history has shown us, the privilege to join peace

efforts and deliver humanitarian aid must not be afforded to brutal oppressors who have no interest in genuine peace or cessation of violence.

Therefore, we call on the Governments of Finland and Switzerland to stop lending legitimacy and recognition to the junta and instead fully support the people of Myanmar. To do so, Finland and Switzerland must immediately cease any engagement with the junta, including the aforementioned initiatives, which are an insult to Myanmar's people who have endured decades of immense suffering from the military's violence.

To align with the will of Myanmar people, Finland and Switzerland must also join ongoing international efforts to actualize justice for Myanmar people and hold the military accountable for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. Relatedly, we call on Finland and Switzerland to denounce the military junta's sham NCA-related peace efforts, and instead provide financial and political support to Myanmar people's efforts to build sustainable and inclusive peace from the bottom up.

For Myanmar to achieve sustainable peace, not only must the military be held accountable under international law, but also the junta's access to weapons and foreign currency must end. Therefore, we further call on Finland and Switzerland to strongly recommend a UN Security Council resolution that refers the crisis in Myanmar to the International Criminal Court or establishes an ad hoc tribunal and that imposes a global arms embargo, as well as robust, targeted economic sanctions against the military junta.

In tandem, Finland and Switzerland must end all partnerships with the junta and junta-controlled or -linked entities for the provision of humanitarian aid. Humanitarian aid should instead be provided directly to local ethnic and community-based organizations, including through cross-border channels to enhance locally led humanitarian response efforts.

Through a strong people's resistance movement across the country, Myanmar people are aiming to dismantle the military junta and end the military's violent oppression. It is high time that Finland and Switzerland stand unequivocally on the side of the people of Myanmar.

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Signed by 661 civil society organizations, including 277 organizations that have chosen not to disclose their names because the junta continues violence in Myanmar.

1. 5/ of Zaya State Strike
2. A-Yar-Taw People Strike
3. Action Committee for Democracy Development (Coalition of 14 grassroots networks)
4. Action Committee of Basic Education Students (ACBES)
5. Action Group for Democracy and Human Rights

6. All Arakan Students' & Youths' Congress - AASYC
7. All Arakan Youth Orga
8. All Aung Myay Thar San Schools Strike Force
9. All Burma Federation of Student Unions (Monywa District)
10. Alliance for Democracy in Myanmar.
11. Alliance of Students' Union – Yangon (ASU-Yangon)
12. Anti-coup Forces Coordination Committee (ACFCC -Mandalay)
13. Anti-Junta Alliance Yangon-AJAY
14. Arakan CSO Network
15. Association of Human Rights Defenders and Promoters
16. Athan - Freedom of Expression Activist Organization
17. Ayeyarwaddy Journalists Society - AJS
18. Ayeyarwaddy West Development Organisation AWDO Minbu
19. Ayeyarwaddy West Development Organisation.AWDO (Nagphe)
20. Basic Education General Strike Committee (BEGSC)
21. Basic Education Students & Youths Association (BESYA) _အခြေခံပညာ

ကျောင်းသား လူငယ်များ အစည်းအရုံး (အကလ)

22. Basic Education Worker Unions - Steering Committee (BEWU-SC)
23. Blood Money Campaign
24. Burma Civil War Museum
25. Burma Human Rights Network
26. Burmese Women's Union
27. CAN-Myanmar
28. CDM Medical Network (CDMMN)
29. Chanmyatharzi Township People's Strike
30. Chaung Oo Township Youth Strike Committee
31. Chindwin (West) Villages Women Strike
32. Civil Information Network (CIN)
33. Civil Society Organizations Coordination Committee (Monywa)
34. Co-operative University Mandalay Students' Strike
35. Coalition Strike Committee – Dawei
36. Daung Sitthe Strike
37. Dawei (Ashaetau) Women Strike
38. Dawei Youths Revolutionary Movement Strike Committee
39. Defend Myanmar Democracy
40. Delta News Agency
41. Delta Youth Initiative
42. Democracy Movement Strike Committee(Dawei)
43. Democracy, Peace and Women's Organization
44. Democratic Youth Council
45. Depayin Township Revolution Steering Committee
46. Depayin Women Strike
47. Equality Myanmar
48. Ethnic Youth General Strike Committee (Mandalay)
49. Federal Corner
50. Former Political Prisoners and New Generation Group – Monywa
51. Free Rohingya Coalition
52. Future Light Center
53. Future Thanlwin

54. Gangaw Women Strike
55. General Strike Collaboration Committee (GSCC)
56. General Strike Committee of Basic and Higher Education (GSCBHE)
57. General Strike Committee of Nationalities -GSCN
58. Generation Wave
59. Grass-root People
60. Human Rights Educators Network
61. Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM)
62. Industries Strike
63. JMC Inn Lay
64. Justice for Myanmar
65. Kachin Gender Star Group
66. Kachin Student Union
67. Kachin Women Network
68. Kachin Women's Association Thailand
69. Kalay Township Strike Force
70. Kalay Women Strike
71. Kanpetlet Land Development Organization
72. Karen Human Rights Group
73. Karen Peace Support Network
74. Kayan Rescuse Committee KRC
75. Keng Tung Youth
76. Kyain Seikgyi Spring Revolution Leading Committee
77. Kyauktada Strike Committee
78. Latpadaung Region Strike Committee
79. Legal Aid for Human Rights
80. Let's Help Each Other
81. LGBT Alliance
82. LGBT Alliance Myanmar (Kalay Region)
83. LGBT Alliance Myanmar (Kyaukse Region)
84. LGBT Community Yangon
85. LGBT Union – Mandalay
86. Los Angeles Myanmar Movement (LA2M)
87. Magway People's Revolution Committee
88. Maharaungmyay Township People's Strike
89. Mandalay University Students' Strike
90. Mandalay Alliance Coalition Strike
91. Mandalay Medical Family (MFM)
92. Mandalay Regional Youth Association - Revolutionary Core Group
93. Mandalay Strike Force (MSF)
94. Mandalay Women Strike
95. Mandalay Youth Strike
96. Mandalay-based People's Strike
97. Mandalay-Based University Students' Unions (MDY_SUs)
98. MayMyo Strike Force
99. Metta Campaign
100. Min Hla farmers Group
101. Minbu Farmers Group
102. Minority Affairs Institute (MAI Myanmar)
103. Monywa LGBT Strike

104. Monywa People's Strike Steering Committee
105. Monywa Women Strike
106. Monywa-Amyint Road Strike Leading Committee
107. Monywa-Amyint Road Women Strike
108. Multi-Religions Strike
109. Mya Taung Strike
110. Myanmar Cultural Research Society
111. Myanmar Institute of Information Technology Students' Strike
112. Myanmar Labor Alliance (MLA)
113. Myanmar People Alliance (Shan State)
114. Myaung Youth Network
115. MyaYar Knowledge Tree
116. Myingyan Civillian Movement Committee
117. National League for Democracy (Monywa Township)
118. Network for Human Rights Documentation - Burma (ND-Burma)
119. Network of University Student Unions – Monywa
120. No.12 Basic Education Branch High School (Maharaungmyay) Students'

Union

121. NRFF - New Rehmonnya Federated Force
122. Nyan Lynn Thit Analytica
123. Open Development Foundation
124. Oway Institute
125. Pale Township People's Strike Steering Committee
126. PFLAG-Myanmar
127. Progressive Voice
128. Pwintphyu Development Organisation
129. Pyi Gyi Tagon Strike Force
130. Rangoon Scout Network – RSN
131. Representative Committee of University Teacher Associations (RC of UTAs)
132. Rural Community Development Society
133. Salingyi Subcommittee
134. Samgha Sammaga-Mandalay
135. Save and Care Organization for Ethnic Women at Border Areas
136. Seinpann Strike
137. Shan MATA
138. Shwe Pan Kone People`s Strike Steering Committee
139. Sisters 2 Sisters
140. Sitt Nyein Pann Foundation
141. Southern Dragon Myanmar
142. Southern Monitor
143. Southern Youth Development Organization
144. Spring Friends
145. Spring Sprouts
146. Spring Traveller
147. Student Voice
148. Synergy - Social Harmony Organization
149. Ta Mar Institute of Development
150. Ta`ang Women`s Organization
151. Tanintharyi MATA
152. Taze Strike Commitee

153. Taze Women Strike
154. Thakhin Kodaw Mhine Peace Network (Monywa)
155. Thayat Chaung Women Strike
156. The 88 Generation Peace and Open Society (Monywa)
157. Twitter Team for Revolution (TTFR)
158. University Students' Unions Alumni Force
159. Volunteers in Myanmar
160. Wetlet Revolution Leading Committee
161. Wetlet Twonship Women Strike
162. White Coat Society Yangon (WCSY)
163. Women Advocacy Coalition- Myanmar
164. Women Alliance Burma (WAB)
165. Women's League of Burma
166. Yadanabon University Students' Union (YDNBUSU)
167. Yangon Women Strike
168. Yasakyo Township People`s Strike Steering Committee
169. Yinmarpin and Salingyi All Villages Strike Committee
170. တကသ ကျောင်းသားဟောင်းများ အင်အားစု
171. ဒို့မြေကွန်ရက် - LIOH
172. ပဉ္စမမဏ္ဍိုင်
173. ပွင့်ဖြူလယ်ယာမြေကွန်ရက်
174. မျက်မှောက်ခေတ်
175. မျိုးဆက်-Generations
176. မြန်မာ့မွတ်စလင် အစည်းအရုံး (BMA)
177. ယောဒေသစစ်ဘေးရှောင်ကူညီရေးအဖွဲ့
178. ရုန်းကန်သံ

11 November, 2023 (Endorsed List)

Endorsed Organizations Worldwide! (Europe & US 46 + International 6 + Japan 50 + Australia 78 + New Zealand 26 = 206).

•Europe

1. Aung San Su Kyi Park, Norway
2. Ah Nah Podcast - Conversations with Myanmar
3. Burma Campaign UK
4. Burma Action Ireland
5. Chin Community in Norway
6. CRPH Funding Ireland
7. CRPH & NUG Supporters Ireland
8. CRPH Support Group, Norway
9. CRPH, NUG Support Team Germany-Deutschland
10. Democratic Party for a New Society, Norway.

11. Doh Atu - Ensemble pour le Myanmar
12. Educational Initiatives Prague
13. European Rohingya Council (ERC)
14. German Solidarity with Myanmar Democracy e.V.
15. Info Birmanie
16. Integria, z.u. Prague
17. International Association, Myanmar-Switzerland (IAMS)
18. K'cho Ethnic Association
19. Kachin Association Norway
20. Karen Swedish Community (KSC)
21. Karenni Association - Norway
22. Matu Burma Foundation
23. Mon Association - Norway
24. Myanmar Baptist Churches in Norway
25. Myanmar Catholic Community In Norway
26. Myanmar Community in Norway
27. Myanmar Hindu Community - Norway
28. Myanmar Muslim Organization - Norway
29. Netherlands Myanmar Solidarity Platform
30. NLD Organization Committe (International) Norway
31. Norway Falam Community
32. Norway Matu Community
33. Norway Rawang Community
34. Padauk Finland Myanmar Association
35. Rohingya Action Ireland (RAI)
36. Rohingya Community in Norway
37. Swedish Burma Committee
38. Youth for democratization of Myanmar (UDM)
39. Zomi Christian Fellowship of Norway
40. Zomi Community Norway

•US

41. Campaign for a New Myanmar
42. International Campaign for the Rohingya
43. No Business With Genocide
44. - Los Angeles Myanmar Movement (LA2M)
45. - Alliance for Democracy in Myanmar also consented to endorse
46. - Free Burma Action Committee, Save Myanmar San Francisco

•International

47. ALTSEAN-Burma
48. Action Committee for Democracy Development (ACDD)
49. Freedom and Labor Action Group (FLAG)
50. Myanmar Campaign Network

51. International Karen Organization
52. U.S. Campaign for Burma

▪Japan

53. Association of United Nationality in Japan (AUN)
54. Burma Refugee Saving Association (B.R.S.A)
55. Chin Community of Japan (CCJ)
56. Chin Youth Organization of Japan (CYO-JP)
57. Colorful Spring (ရောင်စုံနေ့ဦး)
58. Dawei Youths in Japan (DYJ)
59. Dragon Dawn
60. Federation of Worker's Union of Burmese Citizens in Japan (FWUBC)
61. GenY For Revolution Japan
62. Global Myanmar Spring Revolution - Japan
63. Hope For Youth -Kyushu Japan
64. International Society of Myanmar Scholars and Professionals (Japan)
65. Japan Myanmar Future Creative Association (JMFCFA)
66. Japan Myanmar Help Network - JMHN
67. Kachin Affairs Organization -Japan (KAO (Japan))
68. Karenni National Society (KNS)Japan
69. Karen National League Japan-KNL
70. Kansai Group Japan
71. KnowUsMoreMyanmar (KUM)
72. Kobe Myanmar Community (KMC)
73. League For Democracy in Burma (L.D.B Japan)
74. Palaw Supporting Group - Japan
75. Mon Youth For Federal Democracy (MYFD)
76. Myanmar Development Support Group (MDSG)
77. Federation of Worker's Union of Burmese Citizens in Japan
78. Myanmar Nationalities' Support Organization – JP (MNSO)
79. Palaw Supporting Group Japan
80. Myanmar Spring Revolution Japan (MSRJ)
81. Myanmar Tozan Club (MTC)
82. Myanmar Youth and Student Association, Japan (MYSA)
83. Myanmar's Youth Association Hokkaido (MYAH)
84. Okinawa Myanmar Association (OMA)
85. Palaung National Society Japan, PNS-Japan
86. People's Hope Spring Revolution (PHSR)
87. Punnyakari Mon National Society Japan, PMNS-Japan
88. Revolution Tokyo Myanmar (RTM)
89. ShizuYouth For Myanmar
90. Shan Community in Japan (SCJ)
91. Sone See Yar (Volunteer Group)
92. Spring Revolution Restaurant (SRR)
93. Tai Youths Network Japan (TYNJ)

94. Try Together At Japan (TTAJ)
95. Union of Myanmar Citizen Association – Japan
96. Voice For Justice
97. We Are One Saga MOSA
98. We for All
99. We Support
100. Yaw Funding Japan
101. Yokohama Pamphlet Campaign - Myanmar
102. ဂျပန်ပြည်မှ တွဲလက်များ

•Australia

103. Action Against Myanmar Military Coup (Sydney)
104. All Burma Student Democratic Front - Australia Branch
- 105 All Young Burmese League (AYBL)
- 106 Anti-Myanmar Dictatorship Movement
107. Anti-Myanmar Military Dictatorship Network (AMMDN)
108. Australia Burma Friendship Association, Northern Territory
109. Australia Karen Organization WA Inc.
110. Australia Myanmar Doctors, Nurses and Friends
111. Australia Myanmar Youth Alliance (AMYA)
112. Australian Burmese Muslim Organisation
113. Australian Chin Community (Eastern Melbourne Inc)
114. Australian Karen Organisation (AKO)
115. Bamar Community Tasmania
116. Burma Lawyers' Council (BLC)
117. Burmese Community - South Australia
118. Burmese Community Development Collaboration (BCDC)
119. Burmese Community Support Group (BCSG)
120. Burmese Friendship Association
121. Burmese Medical Association Australia (BMAA)
122. Canberra Karen Association
123. Chin Community of Western Australia Inc.
124. Chin Community - South Australia
125. Chin Community Tasmania
126. Chin Youth Organization
127. CRPH/NUG support group Australia
128. Democracy for Burma
129. Falam Community - South Australia
130. Industrial Training Centre (ITC) Family Sydney
131. Joint Action Committee for Democracy in Burma (JACDB)
132. Justice 4 Myanmar - Hope & Development
133. Kachin Association Australia
134. Kachin Association of Australia WA Inc.
135. Karen Community - South Australia
136. Karenni Federation of Australia
137. Karenni Community of Western Australia Inc.

138. NSW Karenni (Kayah) Communities
139. Kayin Community Tasmania
140. Matu Chin Community - South Australia
141. Mindat Chin Community NSW
142. Mindat Community - South Australia
143. Mizo Community - South Australia
144. Mon Families Group
145. Mon National Council (MNC)
146. Myanmar Buddhist Community of South Australia
147. Myanmar Community Coffs Harbour (MCC)
148. Myanmar Democracy and Peace Committee (Australia)
149. Myanmar Democratic Movement (MDM)
150. Myanmar Engineering Association of Australia (MEAA)
151. Myanmar People Residing in Canberra
152. Myanmar Students' Association Australia (MSAA)
153. NLD Solidarity Association (Australia)
154. Perth Myanmar Youth Network
155. Patriotic War Veterans of Burma (PWVB)
156. Queensland Kachin Community (QKC)
157. Queensland Myanmar Youth Collective (QMYC)
158. Queensland Rohingya Community
159. Red Campaign Nirvana Exhortation Group
160. Remonya Association of WA (Mon Community)
161. Shwe Youth Democratic Alliance (SYDA)
- 162 Southcare Medical Centre
163. Support for Myanmar
164. Sydney Friends for Myanmar Unity
165. The Institution of Professional Engineers Myanmar (IPEM)
166. United Myanmar Community of South Australia
167. Victorian Burmese Care Community (VBCC)
168. Victorian Myanmar Youth (VMY)
169. We Pledge CDM (Australia)
170. Western Australia Myanmar Democratic Network (WAMDN)
171. Women Activists Myanmar (WAM)
172. Yadanar Foundation
173. Zo Community - South Australia
174. Zomi Association Australia Inc.
175. Zomi Community - South Australia
176. Zomi Community Queensland
177. Pyit Taing Htaung Social Club
178. Western Australia Myanmar Community (WAMC)
179. BMT counselling
180. Youth Heart Beams

•**New Zealand**

181. Auckland Kachin Community NZ
182. ChinCommunity of Auckland
183. Citizenof Burma Award -NewZealand
184. RvwangCommunity Association New Zealand
185. New Zealand Zo Community Inc.
186. AucklandZomi Community
- 187.New ZealandKaren Association
188. Karenni Society New Zealand
189. OverseasMon Association.New Zealand
190. Burmese Rohingya Welfare Organisation New Zealand
- 191.Shan Community (New Zealand)
192. Myanmar Gonye (New Zealand)
- 193.Federal Myanmar Benevolence Group (NZ)
194. NewZealand DoctorsforNUG
- 195.8888Generation (NewZealand)
- 196.Burmese CommunityGroup (Manawatu,NZ)
- 197.NelsonMyanmar Community New Zealand
- 198.Myanmar Community ChristchurchNew Zealand
199. Dunedin Myanmar Community NewZealand
200. SaveMyanmar FundraisingGroup (NewZealand)
201. MyanmarStudents' UnioninNewZealand
- 202.MyanmarEngineers-New Zealand
203. AllBurma Democratic Face in NewZealand
- 204.Wellington Chin Community (New Zealand)
205. Kayan International Network-New Zealand
206. Wellington Karenni Community - New Zealand