



The Law Society
of England and Wales



Law Council
OF AUSTRALIA

Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada
NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations



United Nations Human Rights Council, 49th Session

49th regular session of the Human Rights Council

Item 4: Interactive dialogue on the report of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (HRC res. 46/21)

21 March 2022

Oral Statement

(Check against delivery)

Mr. President,

The International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute, the Law Council of Australia, Lawyers for Lawyers, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada and the Law Society of England and Wales condemn the ongoing gross human rights violations in Myanmar, intensified following the coup.

Since the coup in February 2021, Myanmar's military and its police have reportedly killed more than 1,500 civilians, including 75 children. Over 11,780 people are victims of mass arbitrary detention, in addition to reports of enforced disappearances, torture and ill-treatment.¹ Lawyers, judges, political opponents, journalists, and activists - all civilians - are being brought before military courts, in breach of international standards. Military courts have reportedly sentenced 84 people to death since the coup.² The activities of lawyers and lawyers' associations have been suppressed, against the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, threatening access to justice.³

Myanmar's military stands accused of atrocities against the Rohingya Muslims. We urge this Council and the international community to ensure that these large-scale and systematic abuses are duly investigated, including an assessment of whether they amount to crimes against humanity, including through a Security Council referral to the International Criminal Court. We also urge UN member States to consider all possible actions to help ensure justice and reparation for victims in Myanmar.

We thank you.

This statement was delivered by:
Francesca Restifo
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¹ Source: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=28069&LangID=E>

² Source: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/01/28/myanmar-year-brutality-coups-wake#>

³ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/B-9-2022-0148_EN.html

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