



Organization: Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada  
Item 2, 4: Interactive Dialogue on the report of the Independent  
Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar  
Date: 12 September 2022  
Speaker: Renée Mulligan

## **Oral Statement to the 51st Session of the UN Human Rights Council from Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada (LRWC), NGO in special consultative status**

### **Myanmar: Military abuse of laws and courts to commit atrocity crimes**

Mr. President,

Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada and the International Bar Association Human Rights Institute thank the Mechanism for its ongoing work in the face of limited resources, lack of access to Myanmar, and intensifying conflict.<sup>1</sup> We draw the Council's attention to parts of the Mechanism's report that focus on the Myanmar military junta's systematic abuse of laws and legal institutions to commit atrocity crimes.

We condemn the recent executions of pro-democracy human rights defenders after secret, in absentia, and unfair trials by military tribunals.<sup>2</sup> These executions along with widespread and systematic arbitrary detention, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, and torture and ill-treatment including sexual violence, may amount to international crimes.<sup>3</sup>

We call on this Council to ensure the provision of adequate resources to the Mechanism to ensure accountability of perpetrators. We call on all States, including countries in the region, to ensure their cooperation with the Mechanism, and to urge the Security Council to refer the situation to the International Criminal Court.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> Human Rights Council, Report of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, A/HRC/51/4, 12 July 2022, <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/51/4>.

<sup>2</sup> Also see International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI), *Crackdown on Human Rights Defenders, Opposition, and the Right to a Fair Trial in Myanmar*, 2 September 2022, <https://www.ibanet.org/document?id=IBAHRI-Myanmar-Report-2022>; Raquel Saavedra and Kingsley Abbott (International Commission of Jurists), Symposium on Myanmar and International Indifference: Support for Lawyers in Myanmar Remains Paramount Since the Coup, *Opinio Juris*, 1 September 2022, <http://opiniojuris.org/2022/09/01/symposium-on-myanmar-and-international-indifference-support-for-lawyers-in-myanmar-remains-paramount-since-the-coup/>.

<sup>3</sup> According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), more than 12,300 civilians are now arbitrarily detained, including jurists, defenders, journalists, parliamentarians, and even children held as proxies for their parents. Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, AAPP, <https://aappb.org/?lang=en>. Among those detained are 33 lawyers, AAPP, <https://airtable.com/shrXiq3K1879QmNNB/tb1C5yh720x2FBSJ5>. Extrajudicial killings continue, now amounting to more than 2,200 persons. AAPP, <https://aappb.org/?lang=en>.