



**INDUSTRIALL GLOBAL UNION**  
**Executive Committee Meeting**  
**22 April 2021**

**RESOLUTION ON MYANMAR**

**Jointly submitted by: Industrial Workers Federation of Myanmar**  
**Mining Workers Federation of Myanmar**  
**affiliated with Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar**

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The Industrial Workers Federation of Myanmar (IWFM) and Mining Workers Federation of Myanmar (MWFM) would like to submit this resolution for the approval of the Executive Committee in its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2021.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2021, a coup d'état by the military junta in Myanmar detained the democratically elected leaders of National League for Democracy (NLD) Win Myint and Aung San Suu Kyi, hours before the swearing-in ceremony of new parliamentarians and formation of a new cabinet. The military, known as the Tatmadaw, took over after it rejected the results of the Nov. 13 election, claiming it was fraudulent.

The military has seized control of the country, arrested political leaders, and responded to ensuing protests with horrific violence. It declared martial law on March 14 in areas around Yangon, the largest city, meaning protesters can be tried in military courts. The military refuses to respect democracy and hand back power.

As the military's use of violence towards the peaceful protestors is escalating, unions in Myanmar are reiterating the urgent need for economic sanctions. Protesters want the military to relinquish power and release Aung San Suu Kyi, a civilian political leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner. At least 726 people have been killed and more than 3,200, including some journalists and trade union leaders, have been arrested, charged or sentenced in violent crackdowns by security forces.

In addition to the violence, Myanmar is facing a serious economic crisis, with rising food and fuel prices stemming from the coup, according to the United Nations World Food Programme.

IndustriALL Global Union issued a statement condemning the coup d'état by the military in Myanmar and supports workers' rights, especially freedom of association, right for peaceful demonstration and freedom of speech. Furthermore, it supports the call of Myanmar's citizens for a global campaign to "Stop buying junta business, and call on companies to use their leverage to secure the release of detainees, restore democratic institutions, and guarantee the human and labour rights of all Myanmar.

In another statement, IndustriALL manifests support to the statement of the Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar (CTUM) that any action that aims to derail the election outcome or impede Myanmar's democratic transition must be rejected. The military must willingly accept the people's free and democratic choice and comply with international human rights norms. Win Myint, Aung San Suu Kyi and other political activists should be released, unconditionally and immediately.

### **IndustriALL Global Union -**

**CONDEMNS** the military coup in Myanmar and the arbitrary detention of the leaders of the National League for Democracy (NLD) party, including State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and President U Win Myint, along with cabinet ministers and other activists in a bid to trample upon the aspirations of the Myanmar people for democracy and to discredit the results of the election in November last year;

**CONDEMNS FURTHER** the continuing ruthless violence and brutality in suppressing the peaceful, country-wide Civil Disobedience Movement in Myanmar. The unrestrained use of violence and lethal weapons by the Myanmar military resulted in bloodshed, as more than 200 were killed was reported in major newspapers in Yangon;

**CONCERNED** that most Central Committee members and the federation leaders of the Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar (CTUM) have been charged; that sixteen labour organisations have been declared illegal by the military regime; that civil servants and workers have been terminated or forced to return to work; and that trade union and labour leaders are forced into hiding as a result of the door-to-door hunting by the military;

**CALLS** on the United Nations Security Council to impose sanctions against the military leaders responsible for the coup – these sanctions must also target economic capital, which provide the military with its revenue;

**DEMANDS** the military regime in Myanmar to drop all the charges on the political leaders, activists, protesters, and trade union leaders; immediately release all the detainees under the coup; return the political power to the civilian government; stop using lethal weapons and violence against the protesters; respect workers and civil servants' rights to freely associate and to strike; and uphold the legal status of the 16 labour organisations that were recently deemed illegal;

**CALLS** on governments to recognise the new National Unity Government of Myanmar formed by elected parliamentarians of November 2020, the representatives of the ethnic nationalities, various academics and experts.

**DEMANDS FURTHER** that all companies that operate or invest in Myanmar to end their commercial ties with the Myanmar military, protect the rights of their employees throughout the supply chain in Myanmar. We are asking global brands from Europe and other countries, in particular our partnering brands in ACT, and employers in Myanmar, to work with IndustriALL and IWFM to protect workers' safety to make sure that workers are not terminated without severance pay in this dangerous situation. We are calling companies to use their leverage to demand for the release of political detainees and the restoration of human rights and democracy in Myanmar

**APPEALS** full support and solidarity to the CTUM and the Myanmar trade union movement, as well as the workers and the people of Myanmar in their struggle to reclaim peace, justice and democracy;

**FURTHER APPEALS** to all IndustriALL Global Union's affiliates to exert pressure on their national governments to demand the Myanmar military to immediately release all the detainees under the coup, return political power to the civilian government, stop the violent suppression of the peaceful protests, respect the fundamental rights of the people, including the right to strike, freedom of expression and assembly, and right to freely choose their own government; **and** to contribute financial and humanitarian aid for workers who have no income, for trade union leaders who are in hiding and living away from their families , legal support for demonstrators and other assistance appropriate for the Civil Disobedience movement.

**CALLS** on all IndustriALL Global Union's affiliates to exert pressure on their national governments to demand comprehensive economic sanctions, especially in the oil and gas and insurance industries, and the access to the financial system as well as enact targeted sanctions against military leaders and the military conglomerates, MEC and MEHL and the state owned gas and oil entity, MOGE, and

**CALLS** on all IndustriALL Global Union's affiliates to escalate their solidarity vis-à-vis Myanmar affiliates by joining global days of actions organized by IndustriALL Global Union with actions around Myanmar authorities in their countries, among other actions to be made.

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