



SECURITY
COUNCIL
(SC)



Topic: Addressing violent demonstrations in Myanmar, ensuring democratic stability, and safeguarding human rights.



Committee: SC

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Moderator: Ovidio Cervantes Diaz

Written By: Ovidio Cervantes Diaz

I. Quorum

- Australia
- Bangladesh
- Brazil
- Canada
- China
- France
- Germany
- India
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Russia
- Saudi Arabia
- Singapore
- South Korea
- Sri Lanka
- Thailand
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States
- Vietnam



II. Committee Background

The Security Council, also known as SC, was established during the Cold War. Continuous disagreement between the United States and the Soviet Union made the Security Council ineffective against similar issues. The clearest example of this occurred in June 1950, when the Soviet Union started boycotting the Security Council due to China's UN membership. The absence of the Soviet Union allowed the U.S. to steer through a series of resolutions to authorize the use of military force to support South Korea in the Korean War. Troops from South Korea, the United States, and 15 other countries would swell the ranks of the United Nations Command to nearly 1 million by the war's end. When an armistice was signed at P'anmunjöm in July 1953, more than 250,000 troops—of whom the majority were Korean—passed away while fighting under the banner of the United Nations Command in Korea.

Between the late 1980s and the early 21st century, the UN Security Council saw a significant increase in its power and activity, particularly concerning its peacekeeping operations. The number of authorized missions increased dramatically, rising from just 13 between 1948 and 1978 to dozens, including operations in the Balkans, Somalia, and Haiti in the 2000s. Even though the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the UN Peacekeeping Forces suggested success, devastating failures in Rwanda and Bosnia soon cast doubt on the UN's effectiveness. In Rwanda, the SC reduced its peacekeeping force after the violence began, and in Bosnia, peacekeepers failed to protect thousands of Bosniak men and boys during the Srebrenica massacre, leading to questions about the SC as a suitable body.

Further challenges are supported by the constant use of veto power by permanent members, often causing political stalemate and inaction during major global crises. The United States frequently vetoed resolutions that were critical of Israel. At the same time, Russia used its vetoes to protect interests in Soviet territories and notably to shield the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Alongside China, Russia blocked many attempts to end the violence in the Syrian Civil War, a conflict that resulted in thousands of deaths. Russia also vetoed resolutions blaming its actions in Georgia and the illegal annexation of Crimea from Ukraine, and blocked the creation of an international tribunal to investigate the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17. These actions made clear the limits of the SC's power when faced with the conflicting geopolitical interests of its most powerful members.

III. History of Topic

Since gaining independence from British rule in 1948, Myanmar has struggled to govern its multiethnic society effectively. Following a coup in 1962, Myanmar's military junta has primarily held control of the country, engaging in conflicts with ethnic minority groups fighting



for greater autonomy. In 1990, Myanmar held its first general election since the 1962 military coup. The National League for Democracy (NLD), led by Aung San Suu Kyi, won by a landslide. Suu Kyi, the daughter of the nationalist leader who fought for Burma's independence and the most prominent democratic activist, was placed under house arrest by the junta before the vote. After the election, the junta refused to recognize the results. The NLD's success in the 1990 election made the junta realize its limited support among the populace. To maintain its grip on power, the junta embarked on a decades-long process to enshrine military rule through what it called "disciplined democracy" or a "roadmap to democracy," which included drafting a new constitution in 2008. The constitution reserved significant power for the military, including control over important ministries and 25 percent of parliamentary seats, effectively granting it veto power over amendments. This approach allowed for limited reforms but ensured the military's continued influence.

Under the junta's roadmap, the government held general elections in November 2010. In the lead-up to the vote, the junta passed new election laws that prohibited anyone serving a prison sentence or married to a foreign national from running for president—a clear attempt to block Suu Kyi from the ballot, who was still under house arrest and married to a British citizen. The NLD decided to boycott the elections, and the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) won. In 2015, the NLD returned to participate in general elections, with Suu Kyi unofficially leading the party. The NLD won Myanmar's first competitive national election in over twenty-five years. Due to the revised election laws, Suu Kyi could not officially become president, but became de facto leader as State Counsellor. The NLD entered a power-sharing arrangement with the military according to the 2008 constitution, leading a civilian parliament while the military continued to control crucial executive ministries and oversee security policy. Despite her reputation as a democratic icon, Suu Kyi lost international support as her NLD government defended the military's ethnic cleansing against Myanmar's Rohingya people, a Muslim ethnic minority group of one million. The Rohingya live in western Myanmar's Rakhine state, which borders present-day Bangladesh. The Rohingya have long faced persecution from the ethnic Bamar majority, who often call them "Bengali" to discredit their right to live in Myanmar. Myanmar's government

Asserts that the Rohingya did not settle in historic Burma before British rule began in 1823. This criterion determined which groups are considered "indigenous ethnic" within the 1982 Citizenship Law. Thus, the Rohingya are not considered citizens by Myanmar's government, making them the largest stateless population in the world. Tensions between Buddhist and Muslim communities in Myanmar's Rakhine State escalated dramatically after a series of Rohingya militant attacks in October 2016 and August 2017. These attacks on military and police outposts, led by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, killed twelve Burmese security



forces personnel in total. In both years, the military responded with brutal crackdowns on Rohingya villages, causing at least 6,700 deaths between August and September 2017 and forcing over 700,000 people to flee across the border to Bangladesh. Widespread reports indicate indiscriminate killings and burning of Rohingya villages, with the UN Human Rights Commissioner calling the situation in Rakhine State “a textbook example of ethnic cleansing.” Since 2017, living conditions for the more than one million Rohingya across the border in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, have continued to deteriorate.

In November 2020, the NLD won the general election again by a large margin. The military contested the results as fraudulent, sensing that the continued democratic success of the NLD posed a long-term threat to its rule. In early February 2021, Myanmar’s military carried out a coup, detaining senior leadership of the democratically elected government, including de facto head of state Suu Kyi, and forcing other members of parliament into hiding. After seizing power, General Min Aung Hlaing, the leader of the military junta, instituted a year-long state of emergency.

Protests immediately broke out in the capital, Naypyidaw, demanding the restoration of civilian rule and democratic governance. In response, security forces employed lethal force, killing more than six hundred people. The military junta also instituted curfews and other limitations on gatherings to curb the demonstrations. Doubling down, the military launched violent campaigns across the country, targeting resistance villages, and silencing and torturing dissenters, displacing thousands in the process.

As international condemnation amplified, an opposition force of ousted officials, oppressed ethnic groups, and pro-democracy protestors united to form the National Unity Government (NUG) in April 2021. The NUG publicly states its goal of governing Myanmar as a “federal democratic union.” Shortly after, the new coalition formed the People’s Defense Force (PDF)—an armed wing to fight the junta and its allied forces. As the junta repressed protests, popular support for the democratic resistance movement grew: in 2022, the PDF claimed 65,000 fighters, which rose to 85,000 soldiers in 2024. Rebel ethnic groups across the country’s states have played a critical role in strengthening the PDF’s efforts, with a common goal of pushing military forces back from local villages. Several of the twenty-five active ethnic armies coordinate with the pro-democracy forces, including the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), Shan State Army, and Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA).

In late October 2023, a coalition of three ethnic armed groups in Shan State launched a coordinated offensive—named Operation 1027, for the date the offensive commenced—against



the junta. Known as the Three Brotherhood Alliance, this coalition consists of the Arakan Army (AA), the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA). Initially formed in 2019, the group's 2023 coordinated offensive posed the strongest challenge to military rule since the February 2021 coup. Insurgents used drones to bomb the military and police outposts in eastern Kayah State— bordering Thailand— western Rakhine State – bordering India – and northern Shan State – bordering China. By the end of 2023, the offensive captured over 180 military outposts in Shan State. The military continues to leverage its technological advantages, many of which are granted by foreign suppliers like Russia and China, to fight armed opposition groups. However, waning morale has hindered military cohesion. Military forces have dwindled from the start of the civil war, with only approximately 130,000 soldiers remaining from a collective of 300,000 in 2021.

IV. Topic Information

Some ongoing issues are the Democratic crisis that has used brutal force and repressive laws to postpone elections. Violence and human rights abuse, the military has carried out mass killing, arbitrary arrests, sexual violence, scorched earth tactics, and mass displacement of civilians. The UN has warned of large amounts of human rights violations. Armed resistances that challenge the junta's control across the country. Humanitarian Disaster: this conflict has displaced over 3M civilians and caused thousands of deaths.

Military's intransigence the military has decided to hold power and refuses international dialogue also the lack of international union is a big factor as SC is divided with China and Russia blocking or abstaining from resolutions. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is considered by its foundational principle of consensus and non-interference in members' internal affairs, making it difficult to take decisive, weak enforcement these have often not been tough enough or adequately enforced by regional partners like Singapore, Fragmentation of the Opposition: While the resistance is strong, a lack of complete political unity among the diverse NUG and various EAOs can complicate dialogue and long-term political planning. These are factors preventing the process.

The Security Council posed the fragmentation of the opposition as a possibly effective solution. While the resistance is strong, a lack of complete political unity among the diverse NUG and various EAOs can complicate dialogue and long-term political planning. International Sanctions: The United States, European Union, and United Kingdom have imposed targeted sanctions on SAC leaders. United Nations Condemnation and Efforts The UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council have adopted resolutions condemning the coup and human rights abuses. International Justice Efforts Calls have been made by human rights organizations and some



nations for the situation to be referred to the International Criminal Court

They have not worked because the failure of the ASEAN point consequences has made little to no progress; the junta has largely ignored its terms. Also, the limited impact of sanctions, as economic sanctions have not stopped the poor military behavior, and the conflict has also escalated, the military has been more brutal lately, and resistance forces have grown stretch

V. Current Issues

Myanmar

The main event in the past was the February 2021 military coup that shattered a decade of diplomatic transitions. The coup and military crackdown led to union in opposition forces, including NUG and EAOs, against la junta. In late 2023, this resistance had influenced territorial losses on the military side, which now controls a smaller area of the country. This conflict has resulted in large humanitarian losses over 3 million people internationally and also collapsing the economy. The political solution attempts ASEAN five points. But this has been constantly ignored by the military. The most effective solution until now has been NUG's efforts to establish control and the EAOs' military victories aimed at dismantling the junta's control and creating a future federal democratic system.

China

China has long been a crucial actor in Myanmar, with bilateral relations greatly influenced by economic interconnectivity projects and a 2,185-kilometer shared border. As resistance to the junta, which took power in February 2021, grows, especially in the wake of the resistance offensive Operation 1027, China has already proven its actions will be consequential in determining the course of Myanmar's future by brokering a ceasefire. To highlight such developments in China's relations with Myanmar, the Stimson Center has developed a database of critical events, Chinese government statements, and major bilateral interactions. China has steadily increased its involvement in the conflict, seeking an end to the fighting to preserve the military junta and ensure stability. Beijing has brokered several ceasefires, with mixed results and temporary truces. China's economic interests in Myanmar include critical minerals, oil and gas, and BRI infrastructure projects.

India

The Government of India has decided to fence the entire 1643 km long India-Myanmar border... It is an important step to ensure the internal security of the country and to maintain the demographic structure of India's North-Eastern States. India-based entities have supplied \$51 million worth of arms and related materials to the military since February 2021 to attain these



objectives [of AEP], India actively pursues regional connectivity with Myanmar through critical projects like the Kaladan Multi-Modal Project (KMMP).

Russia

Russia continue to be the main suppliers of advanced weapons systems to the Myanmar military, accounting for over \$400 million and \$260 million respectively since the coup, with much of the trade originating from state-owned entities. These weapons, and the materials to manufacture more of them, have continued to flow uninterrupted to the Myanmar military despite overwhelming evidence of its responsibility for atrocity crimes. They give fighter jets, attack helicopters, reconnaissance and attack drones, missile systems, tank upgrades, radio and communications equipment, radar complexes, and components for naval ships to the Myanmar junta.

VI. UN Actions

The UN General Assembly demands that the military immediately stop all violence against peaceful protesters and members of civil society, including women, children, and people belonging to ethnic and religious minorities.

Security Council unity has been undermined by the opposition of China and Russia to any robust action, which views the situation as an internal matter for Myanmar, and has been the main arms supplier to the Myanmar military. SC is also in deep concern about the state of emergency and is calling for the immediate release of all detained prisoners.

The UN established the IIMM to "collect, consolidate, preserve and analyse evidence of the most serious international crimes and violations of international law committed in Myanmar" to facilitate criminal proceedings.

VII. Conclusion

The Myanmar crisis started with the February 2021 military coup, which postponed elections and started the civil war. The military has responded to protests from the National Unity Government (NUG) and People's Defense Force (PDF) with armed power and human rights abuse, creating a humanitarian crisis with over 3 million people being displaced. Despite the military losing territory to the opposing combined forces

The United Nations has had trouble making solutions happen as China and Russia oppose in the Security Council because they sell arms to the junta. Also, the refusal from Myanmar to agree or even talk to any international organizations makes it very difficult For The United Nations to



find a Solution.

VII. Guiding Questions

I. Security and Stability

- What were the main causes of the current violent demonstrations and the ongoing conflict in Myanmar?
- How has the conflict inside Myanmar impacted regional stability and neighboring countries?
- What immediate steps can the Security Council take to encourage a ceasefire between the military and opposition groups?
- What are the essential steps for restoring democratic stability and a legitimate civilian government in Myanmar?

II. Human Rights and Justice

- What are the most serious human rights violations being committed, and against which groups (e.g., protestors, journalists, Rohingya)?
- How can the UN ensure that humanitarian aid (food, medicine) reaches the people most in need, especially those who are displaced?
- What measures should be put in place to protect minority groups and guarantee their safety and equal rights in the long term?
- How can the international community ensure justice and accountability for those responsible for war crimes and atrocities?

III. International Action

- What types of sanctions (economic penalties) would be most effective in pressuring the military without harming the general population?
- What is the proper role for ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), and how can the Security Council best support regional efforts?
- Should the Security Council authorize any peacekeeping operations or UN monitors, and if so, what would be their specific mandate (mission)?
- Which powerful member states on the Security Council are likely to oppose strong action, and what are their reasons?



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