



MYANMAR

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**Statement by Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun, Permanent Representative of the
Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations, at General Debate on
Agenda Item 84: “The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels” of the
Sixth Committee of the 79th session of UN General Assembly**

(New York, 17 October 2024)

Mr. Chair,

I wish to start by recognizing the crucial role of the Rule of Law Unit in promoting a strategic approach to rule of law across the United Nations system.

Myanmar aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of ASEAN and NAM.

We are pleased to note that the Secretary-General's report, A/79/117, demonstrates the United Nations' wide-ranging efforts to promote legal frameworks and strengthen institutions around the world.

I would like to stress that the effective implementation of the Secretary-General's New Vision for the Rule of Law is vital for prevalence of peace and stability at national, regional and international levels.

The rule of law is the foundation for peace, and it embodies the principles of legal supremacy, equality, and fairness, ensuring that all individuals and institutions are accountable to clear, stable laws applied consistently and impartially.

It upholds fundamental human rights, guarantees access to justice, and maintains a balance of power, thereby fostering a just and orderly society.

Mr. Chair,

In stark contrast to these fundamental principles of rule of law, the situation in Myanmar since the attempted illegal coup in February 2021 presents a grave concern to the international community. The military junta has abandoned all legal and democratic principles, replacing them with arbitrary violence and oppression.

In a society governed by the rule of law, state actors are accountable to the people, laws are applied fairly, and human rights are protected. However, in Myanmar, these principles have been gravely violated. The junta has perpetrated egregious acts that constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity, including the brutal killing of over 5,800 civilians and the forced displacement of more than 3.4 million people.

Moreover, fundamental rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly have been systematically suppressed, with peaceful protesters rammed by military vehicles and citizens arrested merely for wearing flowers.

These actions represent a comprehensive dismantling of the rule of law, transforming Myanmar's legal framework from a mechanism of protection into an instrument of oppression.

The military now uses laws as tools of oppression rather than justice. There is no accountability for these actions, no fair application of law, and no protection of basic human rights. The collapse of the rule of law in Myanmar has left its people without the legal safeguards essential for a just society. This breakdown not only violates Myanmar's own legal norms but also goes against fundamental principles of international law.

Mr. Chair,

Destruction of rule of law by the military junta has created safe havens for transnational organized crimes and the rise of cybercrimes, online scams and drug trafficking in Myanmar. It has huge impact on the countries in the region and beyond.

As such at the regional and international levels, Myanmar's current situation poses a significant challenge to global efforts to uphold the rule of law and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 16.

The military junta's actions since the illegal coup have systematically undermined the objectives of promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable institutions.

The breakdown of the rule of law in Myanmar poses a significant challenge to the integrity of the international legal system. It undermines global efforts to uphold universal human rights standards and weakens the collective ability of nations to enforce international law as well as threatens the stability and effectiveness of the global rules-based order.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, any election to be organized by the inhumane military junta, with civilian leaders imprisoned, cannot be free, fair, and inclusive.

Such election is fundamentally illegitimate and a complete sham. The people of Myanmar including Rohingya require a transitional justice to ensure safe return to their homes and reestablishment of rights. Restoring rule of law in Myanmar depends on legitimate civilian governance that upholds federal democratic principles and international human rights and humanitarian laws.

The international community and the UN Security Council must immediately heed the demands of the people of Myanmar and take robust, concrete actions to restore democracy and reinstate the rule of law in the country.

Continued inaction of the UN is not only a failure of moral responsibility but also a threat to regional stability and the credibility as a global institution.

I thank you.
