



Keys request to UN and International Community on Humanitarian Situation Regarding Military Coup in Myanmar on 1st Feb 2021 (8th February 2021)

Since early morning of 1st February 2021, the legitimate civilian government's leaders including the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Su Kyi and President U Win Myint and the people's representatives who were officially and democratically elected during November 2020 election, have been detained by the Myanmar Military, taking over the government and declaring that the country will be under state of emergency for one year. The Joint Strategy Team (JST)¹ and the Internally Displaced People from Kachin and Northern Shan States are deeply concerned with these events.

On 2nd February 2021, Northern Commander met with religious leaders in Myitkyina and explained their intentions under this coup, and asked them to convey the messages to their respective church members.

The military coup is severely affecting to the IDPs communities in Kachin and Northern Shan states. The military are taking more positions with armed troops and artillery, even in towns; and it has impacted on the transportation and movement of local people including IDPs. The civilian population is very worried, fearing that armed clashes will occur, particularly in Northern Shan State.

Accessing humanitarian assistance has been constrained since 1st February and it is a big concern in the current political setting, due to the increasing restrictions on movements, transportation, communications, banking system, etc. In some IDPs camps, the food support has covered only for January and the transportation to provide food particularly to Non-Government Controlled areas is a major concern and challenge. Moreover, IDPs are very confused on their plans of their possible Return and Resettlement and are very worried that they will be intimidated and pushed to return or resettle without any assistance or protection of their rights.

STATEMENT AND URGENT REQUESTS:

Considering these dire circumstances, the JST makes the following statement and *urgent requests to all those committed with Human Dignity and Human Rights and all the Stakeholders involved in this crisis:*

¹ JST is a group of committed, professional Humanitarian local NGOs providing comprehensive, strategic, principled humanitarian assistance to people affected by armed conflict in Kachin and Northern Shan States. JST has a long trajectory in strategizing and delivering principled humanitarian assistance in complex contexts and it is highly knowledgeable and exposed to the International Humanitarian System.

1. **JST opposes to all sorts of forceful mean of transfer of power and we urge to respect and restore immediately the democratically elected government.**
2. **International Humanitarian Law must be respected and safe and unimpeded Humanitarian access** for the organizations delivering humanitarian and COVID-19 related assistance is guaranteed. So that IDPs' rights are protected and they receive the humanitarian support required.
3. **The United Nations (UN) and the international community must stand firm with the people of Myanmar** in these circumstances, under the spirit of the UN charter and with a principled approach; ensuring that all UN agencies, offices and representatives protect the rights of Myanmar citizens and particularly the most vulnerable ones, as IDPs including Kachin, Northern Shan, Rakhine, Karan, Chin states, etc.

Joint Strategy Team (JST)

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