

**STATEMENT ON CHRISTMAS MASSACRE IN MYANMAR**  
**Myanmar's Military Continues its Butchery; International Community Offers Words,**  
**Takes Little Action**

09/2021

December 29, 2021

1. We the Free Myanmar publicly denounce in the strongest terms the brutality of the Myanmar military junta's relentless and endless evil acts.
2. The latest act of barbarism on Christmas eve - the slaughter of at least 35 civilians, in Kayah State including children, and the burning of their bodies was the most regretful and the saddest moment for the people of Myanmar especially ethnic Christian minorities. On Christmas day, the terrorist military used fighter jets and attack helicopters for bombing the civilians in Karen State, killing more than 10 innocent people trying to hide in a safety zone from the fighting area.
3. Every day, there are countless horrific acts committed against the people of Myanmar who have risen to oppose the military coup led by Min Aung Hlaing. Terrorism like committing mass murder and burning bodies become Standard Operating Procedure for the military to suppress the peaceful movement for freedom and democracy.
4. Just this month in Sagaing Region, the military rounded up 11 civilians, including children and executed them by burning their bodies. This very criminal act reflected a genocidal campaign of Rohingya Muslim minority waged by the military and its enablers in 2017. The military has a decades-long trademark of heinous tactic against the opposition to their iron-fist rules.
5. It is both shocking and appalling that the international community has done little aside from offering some words of outrage. The UN, the designated body for uplifting mankind, settling disputes, and promoting peace has done **NOTHING** to stop the slaughter in Myanmar. "I condemn this grievous incident and all attacks against civilians throughout the country, which are prohibited under international humanitarian law," U.N. humanitarian affairs chief Martin Griffiths said in a statement Sunday. He called for "a thorough and transparent investigation into the incident so that perpetrators can be swiftly brought to justice." A statement of inaction and abdication if there ever was one!
6. The UN called for a "transparent investigation"—by the very people who are responsible for ordering and carrying out this latest barbarity. This is negligently uncommitted, cowardly, shameful, and completely unacceptable. We all know who is responsible—Myanmar's junta. **Myanmar's neighbors and ASEAN have not uttered a word of concern or protest.** Their dubious involvement and relationship with Myanmar military is

a big problem, not a solution towards meeting the expectation and fulfilling the aspirations of the people of Myanmar.

7. It is overdue that the U.S. must lead an international campaign of like-minded countries to tighten a noose around the military's neck. What have been needed—a long time ago- are an arms embargo, a completely crippling financial sanctions against the junta and its cronies, and no recognition of the military regime. Until that time comes the slaughter will continue against the people of Myanmar who are fighting for their freedom and democracy.

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#### About Free Myanmar

Free Myanmar is the movement of concerned people from all walks of life and across the continents that, for reasons both personal and compassionate, have come together to unify voices and non-violent activities outside Myanmar in coordination with movements inside Myanmar to end military dictatorship and support Myanmar's transition to a truly democratic federal union that protects and provides equal opportunities for all regardless of race, religion, gender and background.