

Media Release



Australia must act on the horrific burning and killings in Myanmar

To: Australian media (for immediate release)

Date: Wednesday 29th December 2021

AMI calls upon the Australian Government to demand ASEAN, with the support of the United Nations and concerned governments, immediately conducts an independent investigation into the horrific murder and burning of Myanmar civilians, including women, children and two [Save the Children](#) aid workers in Kayah state on December 24th.

The ongoing slaughter of civilians and protesters who oppose the military regime in Myanmar constitutes crimes against humanity that demand proper investigation and documentation, as they clearly amount to war crimes.

These horrific burning of [38 Myanmar civilians](#) near Hpruso, some tortured and bound and possibly still alive unable to escape, was followed by air strikes on villages in eastern Myanmar, resulting in thousands of refugees fleeing to the Thai border and further inland.

Villagers and Karenni armed forces who saw fires and reached the crime scene the following morning found burnt out vehicles and homes. The world has now seen [photographic evidence](#) of the charred remains of those shot and burned or else burned alive by the Myanmar military.

This brutal massacre is part of a no-holds barred war that the Myanmar military has launched against its people to eradicate the students and protesters who fled their homes following the military coup of February 1, 2021.

The military are indiscriminate in their killing and are using air attacks and bombing entire villages. It is now clear that 'soft diplomacy' is not effective against this military dictatorship.

AMI calls upon the Australian Government to take the following three actions:

- **initiate action to facilitate independent inquiries by ASEAN, with UN support (including the International Criminal Court) into these reports of atrocities in Kayah State and elsewhere in ongoing violations of International Humanitarian Law.**
- **ensure the application of additional sanctions against Myanmar's military and invoke Australia's new Magnitsky legislation to those responsible for these atrocities and those providing funding directly or indirectly to Myanmar's armed forces**
- **condemn the latest massacre and ongoing air strikes in eastern Myanmar in the strongest terms.**

We call on the Government to take these strong and immediate actions

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