

Media Release



STOP EXECUTIONS IN MYANMAR

To: Australian media outlets

Date: Monday 6th June 2022 (for immediate release)

Consistent with Australia's international opposition to the death penalty, the Australia Myanmar Institute (AMI) calls for justice to be upheld and respect for the human rights of [Phyo Zayar Thaw](#) and [Kyaw Min Yu](#), who were both sentenced to death, along with two others by Myanmar's military junta last week. There are no circumstances which can justify the imposition of this penalty.

Phyo Zayar Thaw, a former MP and member of Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) arrested in November, was sentenced to death for offences under the so called 'anti-terrorism act', a statement from the junta said. The same junta that has now killed over 1,880 citizens, including innocent children, in order to maintain its iron grip over the country.

Phyo Zayar Thaw visited Australia in 2019 to perform at a charity concert for Australia's Myanmar community and was popular as a hip-hop artist, whose words and rhymes drew overwhelming support from the people of Myanmar but irked the military junta.

Kyaw Min Yu, aka Ko Jimmy, is a prominent pro-democracy activist and has also visited Australia where he has many friends and associates. He was arrested last October for allegedly inciting unrest against the state and threatening 'public tranquility' with his social media posts.

AMI expects the Australian Government, in line with its long-established practice in death penalty cases, to make a strong protest in these cases, taking account as well of the commitment of both men to democracy and their histories of friendship with Australia.

For media comment, please contact:

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