

Media Release



After the horrendous executions in Myanmar Australia must now impose swift sanctions against Myanmar's military regime

To: Australian media (for immediate release)

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Four men have been executed by the Myanmar military regime for opposing the military coup of February 1, 2021. Amongst their number are two men who have significantly advanced the cause of democracy in Myanmar and who are well known and welcomed whenever they are in Australia.

Australia Myanmar Institute (AMI) condemns the execution of Phyo Zeya Thaw, Kyaw Min Yu, Hla Myo Aung, and Aung Thura Zaw by the Myanmar regime in the strongest possible terms. Phyo Zeya Thaw was a legislator from the National League for democracy and Kyaw Min Thu, better known to the world as Ko Jimmy, was one of Myanmar's most beloved and fearless democracy activists. He came to the attention of the world for his bravery as part of the 88 Generation Students Group, leading students in the failed 1988 nationwide uprising for democracy. Both men had deep links to Australia, and all Australians share the sorrow of their families.

The executions make it all the more important for the Australian Government to impose the targeted sanctions AMI and many others have been calling for. Other like-minded countries, including the US, UK, Canada and the EU have had significant sanctions in place for well over a year. How many more deaths and executions must we endure before the government takes strong and decisive action against this brutal and corrupt military regime?

AMI welcomes the Government's strong opposition to these murders and the statement that sanctions against members of the Myanmar military regime are under active consideration. But words are not enough, and AMI urges a swift decision made on sanctions, in line with our other allied partners.

AMI also calls again for the urgent release of Associate Professor Sean Turnell from prison in Myanmar and for his rights and welfare to be upheld.

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