

Media Release



Killings by Myanmar junta now reaches 1000!

To: Australian media

Date: Thursday 19th August 2021 (for immediate release)

The Australia Myanmar Institute (AMI) is deeply saddened to see the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) has recorded the number of civilian killings in Myanmar as now reaching over 1000. This tragic loss of life and unwarranted killing perpetrated on innocent women, men and children of Myanmar by the military junta (Tatmadaw), who are meant to be protecting the people, must immediately stop.

Myanmar urgently needs medical assistance. Not only to save lives of people being shot by the military, but also to help stem the escalating number of deaths, now in the thousands, due to a collapse of the health care system in Myanmar, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, since the junta's takeover on 1 February.

Credible reports have revealed the Tatmadaw are using COVID-19 as a 'weapon' against its own people, through denying them access to vaccines, medical care and much needed oxygen supplies. People throughout Myanmar are at grave risk protecting their lives and their communities from the deadly Delta variant now ravaging out of control throughout the country.

We call upon the Australian government to lift its aid commitment and supply COVID-19 vaccines, equipment and medical supplies to Myanmar, as it has done to assist other neighbors in the region. We call upon the Australian Government to work with ASEAN, WHO, UNICEF and other international agencies to ensure urgent medical assistance is delivered effectively and quickly to responsible local health agencies in Myanmar. A joint taskforce, comprising of UN-ASEAN and national agencies, with assistance from the WHO should be immediately created to deliver and distribute urgent medical assistance to the people of Myanmar.

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