



Republic of the Union of Myanmar
National Unity Government
Ministry of Human Rights



H.E. AUNG MYO MIN, UNION MINISTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS
OPENING REMARKS TO THE CONGRESSIONAL BURMA CAUCUS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

27 JUNE 2024

Good afternoon,

It is a pleasure to be invited to address the Congressional Burma Caucus.

Thanks to the US Legislators' presence, also great to see Canadian friend MP Garnett Genius, Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of a Democratic Burma.

I wish to open by thanking each of you. The United States continues to be the most ardent and forward-leaning supporter of the Myanmar people.

The BURMA Act, the extensive suite of targeted sanctions, and the establishment of the NUG Representative Office here in D.C. are each a product of political pressure – and it is you who have applied that pressure so effectively in influencing US Government policy.

It is almost three-and-a-half years since the Myanmar military staged its attempted power grab and triggered the most consequential and unified people's revolution in modern Myanmar history.

Remarkably, against all expectations, the people are winning.
We have shattered the myth of the military's invincibility.

We have achieved an unprecedented level of ethnic unity. And, in partnership with ethnic organisations and civil society, we are providing essential humanitarian and public services.

As the junta's territorial presence recedes, we are demonstrating our capacity to exercise effective control as the legitimate people's government.

But this progress has come at an enormous cost. We are paying for our freedom with our lives. Another generation of Myanmar youth has all but lost the promise of opportunity. And as I speak, new violence envelops Rakhine State, placing Rohingya and Rakhine communities in the crossfire.

So, I ask of you today, please increase your pressure.

- 1 Provide us with enhanced practical support, including life-saving equipment such as communications devices and early warning systems.
- 2 Pressure for more effective coordinated sanctions including the Myanmar banks that are facilitating the Myanmar military junta's access to weapons and related materials (e.g. UAB and A Bank as indicated in the UN SR Tom Andrews' report)
- 3 Pressure for recognition of the NUG. The swiftest and surest route to peace and stability in Myanmar is through the realisation of the Myanmar people's aspirations for federal democracy.
- 4 Pressure for the release to the NUG of the over 1 billion dollars in Myanmar funds held in frozen US accounts.
- 5 Pressure for resumed UN action at the Security Council, including a push for an arms and jet fuel embargo.
- 6 Pressure ASEAN to bring fresh thinking and creativity by building on and looking beyond the Five Point Consensus. Concrete implementation plans and indicators to ensure progress are needed. At the same time, ASEAN must ramp up its engagement with the NUG, ethnic organisations and civil society.
- 7 Pressure the international community to increase its humanitarian assistance to all persons in need – including through cross-border channels – and to turn the screws on the junta through isolation and sharper sanctions.

With the sustained support of the United States and other allies, we will prevail and deliver a nation renewed by peace, freedom, justice, and equality, as demanded by the democratic will of our people.
