 H.E. Myint Swe Acting President of Myanmar c/o Embassy of Myanmar in Switzerland Avenue Blanc 47 1202 Geneva
2023

Your Excellency,

Through the embassy of your country, I would like to address the following lines to you.

As a member/sympathizer of ACAT-Switzerland, I express my deep concern about the human rights situation in Myanmar. Civilians are victims of mass and systematic human rights violations. The death sentence is used as a political tool of repression.

On 21 December 2022, the UN Security Council adopted an important resolution demanding 'an immediate end to all forms of violence throughout the country' and urging the Myanmar military to 'immediately release all arbitrarily detained prisoners'. The resolution also acknowledged ASEAN's central role in helping to find a peaceful solution and encouraged the international community to support the implementation of the Five Point Consensus on the crisis in Myanmar in order to stop human rights violations in the country.

At the end of January 2023, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a damning assessment of two years of repression: villages bombed; clinics, schools and places of worship burned down; 1.2 million people displaced by the fighting; resumption of executions after a moratorium of more than 35 years, with more than 150 death sentences handed down by military tribunals to this day. Since the coup, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) estimates that the junta has arrested 20,750 people for political reasons, of whom 16,884 were still detained as of 21 March 2023, and killed 3,148 people in crackdowns on pro-democracy movements. At the same time, extreme poverty is increasing, with around a quarter of the population suffering from nutritional deficiency.

We call on your Excellency and the ruling military junta, as a matter of urgency:

- to order the immediate cessation of executions and restore the moratorium on the death penalty;
- to order the immediate release of all those detained or liable to be detained for the peaceful expression of their views;
- to end the state of emergency;
- to ensure free access to the country for humanitarian organisations able to provide aid and assistance to people in need.

Yours sincerely and respectfully,