

# FORUM ONG TIMOR LESTE THE TIMOR LESTE NGO FORUM



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## THE TIMOR-LESTE NGO FORUM (FONGTIL) STRONGLY CONDEMNS THE MILITARY COUP IN MYANMAR

### BACKGROUND:

People of Myanmar in November 2020 went to the elections to elect their leaders and the results indicated the political party headed by Ms Aung San Suu Kyi had won the elections according to the results announced by the electoral commission of Myanmar. The elected leader was soon to be sworn in then the military regime declared a coup d'état over the democratic path of Myanmar. This is an unacceptable situation in a democratic institution and modern times. No matter how the military accuses the national electoral commission of Myanmar of committing election fraud, it should take the democratic path by going through the justice system/courts of law to raise their concerns and have the elections declared null and void. This is the expected democratic path of modern nations. The will of the people of Myanmar should be respected at all times.

In the early hours of Monday 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2021, just hours before the opening session of the newly elected parliament, Myanmar's military moved against the democratically elected government. The ruling party - National League for Democracy (NLD) - won the 2020 election in a landslide victory.

The country's President Win Myint and State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi were both detained. Also detained were political leaders, activists and National League for Democracy (NLD) officials.

Civilians were informed via military-run media that the coup was necessary, alleging voter fraud.

The military has announced a one-year State of Emergency with the military in control under the chief of the armed forces, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. The military also announced that new elections would take place and that it would hand power to the winning party.

In the days leading up to the coup, political tensions were rising.

General Min Aung Hlaing has extensive business interests and has been accused of war crimes by the United Nations for his actions against the Rohingya people and other ethnic minorities.

*The military coup is a major blow to the democratic transition that the people of Myanmar have fought so hard for. Civil Society organizations have long experience living and working under military rule and the challenges that it brings. It was not a different history of TIMOR LESTE during the occupation of INDONESIA which they have been implementing military regime of aggression and human rights violations. Through this FONGTIL would like to express our greater solidarity and*

***support the country's democratic forces and call on a strong cooperation around the world.***

FONGTIL strongly condemns the military coup in Myanmar and stands in solidarity with the people of Myanmar who are facing a return to military rule after ten years of democratic transition.

We do really proud and remembered the free election was conducted by 2011. We thought that started from the moment the People of Myanmar been able develop democratizations in their own country with what they believed on the freedom of expression. We also thought that by that moment the State started reforming institutions in accordance with the democratic principles. Unfortunately, after 10 years later this democratization were taken over by military regime with extremely barbarian and burnt down totally the all effort that have done by international community for the last two decades.

FONGTIL takes a great concern on the democratic path in Myanmar being suffocated by military men and women. The people in Myanmar spoken clearly determining people who would govern them but the unfortunately the military has taken undemocratic means through coup d'état to over throw the voice of the people. FONGTIL in solidarity with the people of Myanmar, we strongly condemn the undemocratic actions of the Military

FONGTIL expresses the vote of no confidence in the coup de tat government and without any reservation condemn the action of military; they are better going back to the barracks and keep the boards safe for the people of Myanmar. FONGTIL sides with people of people of Myanmar who went to vote in their next leaders and we demand their rights to be uphold and safeguard. We call upon all human rights organization, democratic states, human rights defenders and all people wish to see democratic path in Myanmar to condemn the actions of military. Timor-Leste as extraordinary member, almost become a permanent member of ASEAN, Would like to express ours solidarity to the peoples of Myanmar whose rights are being violated by the military government, Otherwise Timor-Leste is not yet permanent member but observing at the human right situation is of great concern.

FONGTIL condemns the brutalism of military in Myanmar and express ours solidarity with the society of Myanmar to continue raise the human rights violations and concerns against the regime of the dictators led by the military.

FONGTIL supports the power of civilians to fight for their rights through demonstration actions in all cities of Myanmar to raise-up their protest/in-satisfactions against military coup and to freely release those who have been arrested.

FONGTIL calls for an urgent attentions from all ASEAN countries to decide strong sanctions to the military actions in Myanmar. Lastly we call upon to international community, Amnesty International and UN to intervein immediately and bring back the nation to the democratic path and the voice of people of Myanmar.

Dili Timor-Leste, February 10, 2021

**Daniel Santos do Carmo**

Executive Director of FONGTIL