



United Nations Human Rights Council 61st Session

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar

13 March 2026

The Law Council of Australia, LAWASIA and the International Bar Association Human Rights Institute reiterate our grave concern regarding the ongoing crisis in Myanmar, and the military's attempts to legitimise its rule through a so-called 'election' that falls far short of international standards.¹

Five years after the unconstitutional coup against the democratically-elected government, conflict has intensified and the humanitarian crisis continues to deepen.

We are particularly concerned by laws introduced ahead of the polls that impose severe penalties on those seeking to question the electoral process.² These laws further restrict civil discourse and freedom of expression, and form part of a broader pattern of criminalising protest and silencing criticism of the regime.

We reiterate our condemnation of the junta's weaponisation of the legal system to perpetrate and avoid accountability for grave human rights abuses,³ including through the use of the death penalty, and call for the immediate release of all political prisoners.⁴

We urge all States to intensify pressure on the junta to bring about a peaceful resolution to the situation in Myanmar,⁵ and to support effective international mechanisms to ensure accountability for grave human rights violations and international crimes committed in Myanmar.⁶

Statement delivered by Tania Wolff, President of the Law Council of Australia

¹ Law Council of Australia, 'Democracy and Human Rights in Myanmar' ([Submission](#), 6 February 2026).

² *Law to Protect Multi-Party Democratic General Elections from Disruption and Sabotage* (Myanmar) No. 48 of 2025; see Phoe Tar, 'Nine More People Including Children Detained in Myanmar Junta's Pre-Poll Crackdown', *The Irrawaddy* ([online](#), 23 September 2025).

³ Law Council of Australia and International Bar Association Human Rights Institute, 'Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar' ([Oral Statement](#), 20 March 2023).

⁴ International Bar Association Human Rights Institute, Law Council of Australia, Law Society of England and Wales, and Lawyers for Lawyers, 'Interactive Dialogue on the oral update of the High Commission on Myanmar' ([Oral Statement](#), 1 March 2024); See, Myo Pyae, 'No Amnesty for Myanmar's Top Political Prisoner as Junta Orchestrates Power Transition' *The Irrawaddy*. ([online](#), 3 March 2026).

⁵ Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (Advance unedited version, 4 March 2026), UN Doc A/HRC/61/58.

⁶ Law Council of Australia, LAWASIA and International Bar Associations' Human Rights Institute, 'Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Myanmar' ([Oral Statement](#), 3 July 2024); See also, LAWASIA, Communication to the International Criminal Court regarding the Commission of Crimes Against Humanity in Myanmar (20 May 2021), as described in 'Communication to the International Criminal Court, Myanmar' ([Media Statement](#), 20 May 2021).