



57th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Item 4: Interactive dialogue on the oral update of the High Commissioner on Myanmar

Joint Oral Statement

23 September 2024

The International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute, the Law Society of England and Wales, Lawyers Rights Watch Canada and Lawyers for Lawyers condemn the escalation of atrocity crimes by the Myanmar junta targeting conflict-affected groups.

More than three years after the coup, the Military and affiliated militias continue committing crimes against humanity and war crimes with total impunity. This was also recently stated by the IIMM, "*No one has yet been held accountable for these crimes,*" despite the fact that "*the number of serious international crimes in Myanmar*" continues increasing.

The military has completely compromised the independence of the judiciary. Over 20,800 people are arbitrarily detained without access to independent courts or adequate legal representation. Lawyers not only face closed-door proceedings and a lack of due process but have themselves been threatened, harassed, arbitrarily arrested, and detained in relation to their work, particularly when defending political cases. This demonstrates that full collapse of the rule of law and the domestic justice system.

We condemn recent cases of atrocities against Rohingyas and other ethnic communities and deplore that such crimes are committed also by other groups.

We call on member states to refer the situation in Myanmar to the International Criminal Court under article 14 of the Rome Statute and to use all possible avenues to hold the junta accountable for all international crimes that are being committed.

Thank you.

This statement was delivered by:

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