



53rd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue on the Written Update of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Myanmar

Joint Oral Statement

6 July 2023

The International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute and the Law Council of Australia, with The Law Society of England and Wales and Lawyers for Lawyers, continue to condemn the ongoing atrocity crimes by the junta in Myanmar.

Since the coup, the junta continues to target pro-democracy activists, human rights defenders (including lawyers and journalists), and civil society, shrinking civic and political space.

Sham trials continue and political prisoners face lengthy prison sentences or the death penalty in breach of international fair trial guarantees. The military has completely captured the judiciary. Lawyers not only face closed courts and a lack of due process, but are harassed, intimidated, threatened, and arbitrarily arrested, particularly when defending political cases.

As of April 2023, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners estimates at least 32 lawyers were in pre-trial detention with little evidence supporting the charges against them, or serving sentences under various laws, including Section 505A of the Penal Code and amended provisions of the Counter-Terrorism Law.

We urge this Council and the High Commissioner to continue to robustly respond to the deteriorating situation in Myanmar, and the international community to call for a moratorium on the death penalty and 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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