

51st regular session of the UN Human Rights Council
Item 2: Interactive dialogue on the report of Independent Investigative Mechanism for
Myanmar

Delivered by Priyal Sepaha
On behalf of Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)
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Mr President, FORUM-ASIA welcomes the report of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar and the efforts to increase testimonial evidence with technological advancements and enhance victim and witness protection.

We share deep concerns about the broadened scope of crimes committed by the Myanmar military since February 2021, emboldened by impunity for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. More than five years later, nearly a million Rohingya still remain in refugee camps with no prospects of safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable return to their homes.

We remain concerned that the Mechanism still does not have access to crime scenes, victims and potential witnesses inside Myanmar.

We share the Mechanism's view that social media is an 'essential vehicle for sharing information.' However, considering the systematic use of social media in Myanmar by the junta for misinformation and disinformation, we urge the Mechanism to ensure that principles of 'do no harm' are at the centre of its outreach and evidence collection.

The report recognises the importance of cooperation with the Asia-Pacific States to carry out collection activities. Can the Mechanism elaborate on the progress made towards ensuring the cooperation of States in the region in carrying out its mandate?

Considering the limited progress on ending impunity acknowledged in the report, what additional steps can the Mechanism take to advance international accountability for genocide against Rohingyas?

Finally, we call on the international community to cooperate with the Mechanism and ensure all necessary resources and access for the Mechanism to continue its crucial work.

Thank you