

His Excellency
Dr. Jose Ramos-Horta
President
Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

7 April 2023

Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned 413 Myanmar, Timorese, regional and international civil society organizations strongly urge Your Excellency, along with the National Commission for Elections (CNE) President Dr. Jose Agostinho da Costa Belo Pereira, and the Network of Jurisdictional and Electoral Administration Bodies of Portuguese Speaking Countries (ROJAE-CPLP), to retract inviting the representatives of the so-called “Myanmar Election Agency” appointed by the illegal junta to your International Workshop on “Strengthening Democracy, Peace and Stability in State Building”, set to be held on May 19, 2023 in Dili.

These members of the Myanmar Election Agency, representing the brutal junta, have no credibility to talk about the subject of strengthening democracy, peace, and stability in state-building. After its attempted coup in February 2021, without a constitutional basis, the military junta invalidated the results of the democratically held November 2020 General Elections where the National League of Democracy (NLD) won in a massive landslide — a move that disregards the people’s will and runs contrary to the central tenets of democracy. Even then, after more than two years of the coup, the illegal junta controls only 17% of the country’s territory while the majority is controlled under the governance of the legitimate National Unity Government and Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations.

Since then, the illegitimate junta and their administrations have conducted nationwide attacks on civilians, eradicating the foundations of free media, civil society, the political party system, and academic freedom. As of March 2023, the junta and their enablers have killed over 3,000 people, arrested over 21,000 people. At least 1.4 million people have been internally displaced by the military’s violence, and at least 52,200 people forced to leave Myanmar, according to the UN Office of the High Commission on Human Rights and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. We know that you are aware of this grave situation having bravely voiced your own protest against the coup during its early days.

As you wrote in your article published by the *Newsweek* on December 16, 2021, “the international community has the means to stand up to Myanmar's military junta. Governments and international bodies should refuse to recognize the Tatmadaw regime or their representatives. They should expel representatives sent by the illegitimate military junta. They should continue to recognize and support diplomats appointed by Myanmar's democratically elected government, including at the United Nations, thereby ensuring that the legitimate voices of democracy continue to be heard.”

Their actions and the scale of suffering they have created clearly demonstrate strong and consistent disdain to the values of democracy, peace, and stability in nation-building which the

international workshop you will host aims to promote and achieve. Given this track record, they will not care about any platitudes on democracy and will return to Myanmar and continue their murderous ways. They even ignored the Five Point Consensus brokered by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) during the Cambodian Government's Presidency. Thus, having representatives of the illegitimate junta will not only taint the goodwill which you aim to foster, it will also disregard the suffering of the peoples of Myanmar who are continuously working to resist the military towards the establishment of a federal democracy in their country. But more so, it could stigmatize Timor-Leste whose own robust and shining democracy has been a blazing light in this otherwise blighted region of tyrants and chameleons.

Aside from retracting the invitation for these Myanmar Election Agency representatives, we also respectfully call on the organizers of the International Workshop to instead extend an invitation to the representatives of the National Unity Government (NUG), who have been continuously working to establish federal democracy in Myanmar. As you very well know, the NUG has been active in rallying and engaging the international community to go against repressive actions by the junta. We urge your support, as an esteemed member of the international community and a champion of human rights and democracy, to support efforts to ensure accountability for the victims of the illegal junta and facilitate further humanitarian support for the peoples of Myanmar, especially its most vulnerable pro-democracy sectors.

We sincerely hope you heed our urgent plea.

For more information, please contact:

- Khin Ohmar, Chairperson, Progressive Voice, info@progressive-voice.org
- Ichal Supriadi, Secretary-General, Asian Democracy Network, ichal@adnasia.org

Signed by 413 organizations including 222 organizations who have chosen to not disclose their names:

1. 5/ of Zaya State Strike
2. Action Against Myanmar Military Coup (AAMMC)
3. Action Committee for Democracy Development (Coalition of 14 grassroots networks)
4. Action Committee of Basic Education Students (ACBES)
5. Active Youths Kalaymyo
6. Ah Nah Podcast - conversations with Myanmar
7. All Aung Myay Thar San Schools Strike Force
8. All Burma Student Democratic Front (ABSDF) - Australia Branch
9. All Young Burmese League (AYBL)
10. Alliance of Students' Union – Yangon (ASU-Yangon)
11. ALTSEAN-Burma

12. Anti Dictatorship in Burma DC Metropolitan Area
13. Anti-coup Forces Coordination Committee (ACFCC -Mandalay)
14. Anti-Junta Alliance Yangon-AJAY
15. ASEAN Sogie Caucus
16. Asia Democracy Network (ADN)
17. Asia Justice and Rights – Timor-Leste (AJAR-Timor Leste)
18. Asia Pacific Solidarity Coalition (APSOC)
19. Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)
20. Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL)
21. Assistance Association for Political Prisoners
22. Association of Human Rights Defenders and Promoters
23. Association Suisse-Birmanie (ASB)
24. Athan – Freedom of Expression Activist Organization
25. Australian Karen Organisation (AKO)
26. A-Yar-Taw People Strike
27. Ayeyarwaddy West Development Organization (AWDO, Magway Region)
28. AYN Ayeyarwady Youth Network
29. Blood Money Campaign Myanmar
30. Boston Free Burma
31. Burma Action Ireland
32. Burma Campaign UK
33. Burma Canadian Network
34. Burma Lawyer Council (BLC)
35. Burma Support
36. Burmese Americans Democracy Alliance
37. Burmese Canadian Network
38. Burmese Chin Community of Atlanta
39. Burmese Community Development Collaboration (BCDC)
40. Burmese Community Support Group (BCSG)
41. Burmese Medical Association Australia (BMAA)
42. Burmese Rohingya Organisation UK
43. Burmese Women’s Union
44. CDM Medical Network (CDMMN)
45. CDM Support Group (Mae Sot)

46. Center for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV), Sri Lanka
47. Chaung Oo Township Youth Strike Committee
48. Chin Human Rights Organization
49. Citizen Congress Watch (CCW), Taiwan
50. Civil Information Network (CIN)
51. Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections (BERSIH), Malaysia
52. Coalition Strike Committee – Dawei
53. Committee for Free and Fair Election (COMFREL), Cambodia
54. CRPH & NUG Supporters Ireland
55. CRPH Funding Ireland
56. CRPH Support Group, Norway
57. CRPH, NUG Support Team Germany – Deutschland
58. Dawei Youths Revolutionary Movement Strike Committee
59. Democracy for Ethnic Minorities Organization
60. Democracy, Peace and Women’s Organization
61. Depayin Township Revolution Steering Committee
62. Educational Initiatives Prague
63. Equality Myanmar
64. Ethnic Youth General Strike Committee (Mandalay)
65. Federal FM - Mandalay
66. Former ABSDF International
67. Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan (FEFA)
68. Free Burma Action Committee - Central Valley
69. Free Burma Action Committee - Chico
70. Free Burma Action Committee - Northern California
71. Free Burma Action Committee - Sacramento
72. Free Burma Action Committee - San Francisco
73. Freedom and Labor Action Group (FLAG)
74. Future Light Center
75. Future Thanlwin
76. General Strike Collaboration Committee (GSCC)
77. General Strike Committee of Basic and Higher Education (GSCBHE)
 - a. Basic Education Worker Unions - Steering Committee (BEWU-SC)
 - b. Representative Committee of University Teacher Associations (RC of UTAs)

- c. Basic Education General Strike Committee (BEGSC)
- 78. Generation Wave
- 79. German Solidarity with Myanmar Democracy eV
- 80. Gimpo Myanmar Friends Korea
- 81. Global Myanmar Spring Revolution
- 82. Global Myanmar Spring Revolution (Japan)
- 83. Global Myanmar Spring Revolution (Korea)
- 84. Grass-root People
- 85. Help Myanmar
- 86. Helping Hands for Burma (H2B)
- 87. Human Rights Educators Network
- 88. Industrial Training Centre (ITC) Family Sydney
- 89. Info Birmanie
- 90. Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID)
- 91. International Association, Myanmar - Switzerland (IAMS)
- 92. Justice For Myanmar
- 93. Kachin Association Australia (KAA)
- 94. Kachin Student Union
- 95. Kachin Women's Association Thailand
- 96. Kalay Township Strike Force
- 97. Karen Association of Ireland
- 98. Karen community (The Netherland)
- 99. Karen Peace Support Network
- 100. Keng Tung Youth
- 101. Komite Independen Pemantau Pemilu (KIPP), Indonesia
- 102. Kyain Seikgyi Spring Revolution Leading Committee
- 103. Kyaukse University Students' Union
- 104. La Communauté BIRMANE de France
- 105. Latpadaung Region Strike Committee
- 106. Legal Network for Truthful Elections (LENTE), Philippines
- 107. Let's Help Each Other
- 108. LGBT Alliance
 - a. LGBT Union – Mandalay
 - b. Monywa LGBT Strike

- c. LGBT Community Yangon
 - d. LGBT Alliance Myanmar (Kalay Region)
 - e. LGBT Alliance Myanmar (Kyaukse Region)
109. Magway People's Revolution Committee
 110. Mandalay Medical Family (MFM)
 111. Mandalay Regional Youth Association (MRYA)
 112. Mandalay Strike Force (MSF)
 - a. Samgha Sammaga-Mandalay
 - b. Mandalay Alliance Coalition Strike
 - c. Mya Taung Strike
 - d. Mandalay University Students' Strike
 - e. Chanmyatharzi Township People's Strike
 - f. Maharaungmyay Township People's Strike
 - g. Mandalay Youth Strike
 - h. No.12 Basic Education Branch High School (Maharaungmyay) Students' Union
 - i. Co-operative University Mandalay Students' Strike
 - j. Mandalay-based People's Strike
 - k. Multi-Religions Strike
 - l. Myanmar Institute of Information Technology Students' Strike
 - m. Daung Sitthe Strike
 - n. Seinpann Strike
 113. Mandalay-Based University Students' Unions (MDY_SUs)
 114. Matu Chin Community - NSW/UPU Chin Association
 115. MayMyo Strike Force
 116. Metta Campaign Mandalay
 117. Minbu Farmer Group
 118. Mindat Chin Community NSW
 119. Minhla Development Organization
 120. Mon National Council (MNC)
 121. Monywa People's Strike Steering Committee
 - a. All Burma Federation of Student Unions (Monywa District)
 - b. Network of University Student Unions – Monywa
 - c. National League for Democracy (Monywa Township)
 - d. The 88 Generation Peace and Open Society (Monywa)

- e. Thakhin Kodaw Mhine Peace Network (Monywa)
 - f. Former Political Prisoners and New Generation Group – Monywa
 - g. Civil Society Organizations Coordination Committee (Monywa)
122. Monywa-Amyint Road Strike Leading Committee
 123. Myanmar Action Group Denmark
 124. Myanmar Campaign Network
 125. Myanmar Community Austria
 126. Myanmar Community Coffs Harbour (MCC)
 127. Myanmar Cultural Research Society
 128. Myanmar Democratic Force in Denmark
 129. Myanmar Labor Alliance (MLA)
 130. Myanmar People Alliance (Shan State)
 131. Myanmar Professionals Association Australia (MPAA)
 132. Myaung Youth Network
 133. Myingyan Civillian Movement Committee
 134. Naphe Development Organization
 135. National Election Observation Committee (NEOC), Nepal
 136. Netherlands Myanmar Solidarity Platform
 137. Network for Human Rights Documentation Burma
 138. New Myanmar Foundation (NMF)
 139. NLD Solidarity Association (NSW chapter)
 140. NSW Karenni (Kayah) Communities
 141. Nyan Lynn Thit Analytica
 142. ODHIKAR, Bangladesh
 143. Olive Organization
 144. One Dollar for People of Burma
 145. Open Forum for Democracy Foundation (P-NET), Thailand
 146. Padauk
 147. Pale Township People's Strike Steering Committee
 148. People Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL), Sri Lanka
 149. People Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD), South Korea
 150. People's Voter Education Network (JPPR), Indonesia
 151. Perkumpulan untuk Pemilu dan Demokrasi (PERLUDEM), Indonesia
 152. Progressive Voice

153. Pwintphyu Development Organization (Magway Region)
154. Pyi Gyi Tagon Strike Force
155. Save and Care Organization for Ethnic Women at Border Areas
156. Save Myanmar San Francisco
157. Save Myanmar USA
158. SEA Junction
159. Shan MATA
160. Shwe Pan Kone People`s Strike Steering Committee
161. Southeast Asia Freedom of Expression Network (SAFENet)
162. Southern Dragon Myanmar
163. Southern Youth Development Organization
164. Suomi-Myanmar Association
165. Support Group for Democracy in Myanmar (The Netherland)
166. Sydney Friends For Myanmar
167. Synergy - Social Harmony Organization
168. Ta`ang Women`s Organization
169. Tanintharyi MATA
170. The Ladies
171. Transparent Elections Foundation of Afghanistan (TEFA)
172. Twitter Team for Revolution (TTFR)
173. U.S. Campaign for Burma
174. University Students` Unions Alumni Force
175. We Pledge CDM (Australia)
176. Wetlet Revolution Leading Committee
177. White Coat Society Yangon (WCSY)
178. Women Activists Myanmar
179. Women Alliance Burma (WAB)
 - a. Mandalay Women Strike
 - b. Yangon Women Strike
 - c. Monywa Women Strike
 - d. Monywa-Amyint Road Women Strike
 - e. Chindwin (West) Villages Women Strike
 - f. Kalay Women Strike
 - g. Depayin Women Strike

- h. Taze Women Strike
 - i. Dawei (Ashaetaw) Women Strike
 - j. Gangaw Women Strike
 - k. hayat Chaung Women Strike
 - l. Wetlet Township Women Strike
180. Women Caucus for Politics, Timor-Leste
 181. Women's League of Burma
 182. Yadanabon University Students' Union (YDNBUSU)
 183. Yinmarpin and Salingyi All Villages Strike Committee
 184. Zomi Association Australia Inc.
 185. ဒို့မြေကွန်ရက် - LIOH
 186. နဂါးဖြူ (ထိုင်းနယ်စပ်)
 187. နွေဦးမီးငှက် (ထိုင်းမြန်မာ နယ်စပ်)
 188. နွေဦးအင်အား မိုးညိုမြို့နယ်
 189. ပွင့်ဖြူလယ်ယာမြေကွန်ရက်
 190. ဖင်လန်မြန်မာအသင်း (Finland Myanmar Society Ry)
 191. ဧရာဗေဒါ (ပြည်တွင်း)