



**Burma News International,
Myanmar Peace Monitor**



An Analysis of The World's Focus on Myanmar

February, 2022

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Objective

The Myanmar coup regime has drawn a series of condemnations and denunciations from most of the countries around the world since the onset of the coup on February 1st, 2021. However, other groups such as China, Russia, and ASEAN were witnessed to keep remarkably silent about the matter. The people of Myanmar, who have been protesting peacefully against the military coup d'état, would expect practical support and assistance from the United Nations, including the United States, every time they faced violent crackdowns, arrests, and killings by the junta. The protesters staged anti-coup rallies by holding signs calling for the implementation of programs such as the Responsibility to Protect (R2P).

On the other hand, statements of condemnation and concern have so far been all that the international community have delivered, on which the people

of Myanmar placed high hopes. To make matters worse, it is found that some of their approaches to the coup regime, which is deeply repulsive to the people of Myanmar, always go against the true will of the people.

This research paper examines the focus given by the world on the reports and events during the Spring Revolution and aims to connect the world with the aspirations of the people of Myanmar to overthrow the military dictatorship.

Research Methodology

This research paper titled “The World and its Emphasis on Current Myanmar” is based on information gathered from the reports of local and foreign news outlets, including the Burma News International (BNI) and its member news organizations, compiled on a daily basis by Myanmar Peace Monitor. This paper draws a comparison between the approaches of the global community to stories and events which people witnessed during the military takeover and the will of the people of Myanmar as a whole.

Introduction

The military regime led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing seized power by detaining the democratically elected government leaders including President U Win Myint at dawn on February 1st, 2021. President U Win Myint and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi were arrested for alleged voter list irregularities. The handover of the state power to the coup regime by Vice-President U Myint Swe who is a former general, was broadcast via the State-controlled television.

Even before the coup, the junta had never tried to resolve the issue through electoral laws and regulations regarding the 2020 General Election. Instead, they only attempted to convince the people with sweet but lame excuses that they did it to resolve the voter fraud and repeatedly issued statements. It followed the seizure of power only hours before the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House), was convened on February 1st.

The military regime leader, who was supposed to go into retirement with superannuation, took control of the state power just to satisfy his personal lust for power despite the repeated calls for respect for 2020 poll results and for democratic norms to be upheld from the international community and a country with fully-fledged democracy like the United States. As a result, the coup regime hasn't received recognition from the world yet, including the UN, over one year since the takeover. Particularly, China and Russia – the countries with which the regime has very close relations – have yet to acknowledge the legitimacy of the coup regime.

During the military coup, protests have been seen to take various forms in all parts of Myanmar –urban and rural – on a daily basis since February 6th, intensifying the Spring Revolution. The coup regime committed atrocities by carrying out violent crackdowns on unarmed peaceful protesters, and even shot to kill them with live rounds in major cities such as Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, and Mandalay.

Despite the fact that Senior General Min Aung Hlaing-led State Administration Council (SAC) launched harsh crackdowns on the unarmed people who are resisting their forceful power takeover, made arrests and killings of them, no satisfactory move has been seen from the US and its allies, as well as from the UN, except for their calls for an end to the atrocities and consolation for the people of Myanmar. The people even expected the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) from the global community in the hope that it would be able to

take effective military action against all kinds of violent oppression by the military regime and its murderous stooges in urban as well as in rural and hilly areas.

Whenever UN meetings and those between the leaders of the United States and major powers were held, the Myanmar people's hope of liberation from the coup regime's oppression would be born. However, the Myanmar people began to see rays of light which would annihilate the coup regime and prepare for their self-defense when the National Unity Government (NUG) and the National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC) came into being during the Myanmar New Year period on April 16th, 2021.



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The people who had been taking part in anti-coup protests and rallies since the beginning of May 2021 began to take up arms and led armed resistance movements against the junta forces in areas such as Chin and Karenni (Kayah) states. In such a situation, the coup leader and his stooges used excessive manpower and deadly force against the people, arrested and killed them. As they even began to conduct air raids and use artillery, the international community had to change their tone of voice from “worrying” to “extremely worrying”.

The people of Myanmar are moving forward every day in the pursuit of their goals of the Spring Revolution to overthrow the military junta, uproot the dictatorship, and establish a federal union. They not only organized protests and rallies comprising millions of participants at the heart of Yangon, but also staged “Silent Strike” in cities and towns across the country, in which no one took to the streets. The movement received active participation even from small shops to supermarkets. The silent strike to bring down the military dictatorship in Myanmar took the international community including the United States by surprise and received their recognition. The movement also triggered Myanmar nationals around the world to join hands in the efforts to root out the military dictatorship.

Although pressure and sanctions being imposed against the coup regime generals and their followers from the world including the United Nations and

members of the ASEAN have not yet been satisfactory to the oppressed Myanmar people, the lack of official recognition of the coup leader Min Aung Hlaing and a bunch of his hangers-on has added considerable impetus to the Spring Revolution.

In this research paper, the level of emphasis each country has placed on the ordeal that the people of Myanmar have been enduring will be analyzed.

China to bet on the winning horse

The Chinese government's motto "We do not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries" may need to be added with a phrase "except for their own economic interests". Over the course of the Myanmar Peace Monitor's monitoring of the peace process in Myanmar, China has been involved in the process with a stance of "carrying fire in one hand and water in the other". When it comes to the interests of China, the Chinese government and its citizens, they have the tendency to sway like a "bamboo tree" in aligning with any form of Myanmar governments in power – military rule, quasi-civilian rule, or civilian rule.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Myanmar and met with Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in Nay Pyi Taw three weeks prior to the military takeover. Among the issues they discussed during the meeting, the coup maker mentioned the possibility of votes being rigged in the November 8 general elections, which have been widely regarded as "one-sided allegation". The senior general also uttered the possibility of post-election "errors in voters list". Unusually, the coup maker also mentioned "conditions for steering the country's democratization process", according to www.seniorgeneral-minaunghlaing.com.mm.

But, only the coup leader Min Aung Hlaing and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi will only know whether their takeover plan and the arrests of democratically elected government leaders were part of the so-called future conditions to apply in steering the democratization in Myanmar.

Just days after the coup, it was rumored that the Chinese government supported the military's forceful takeover and that there was a secret agreement between the two sides, but Wang Wenbin, the spokesperson for the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs officially denied the allegations. However, the Chinese government representatives opposed the proposal to impose sanctions



against the coup regime during a closed-door meeting of the UN Security Council on February 4th. Also, the Chinese embassy in Myanmar denied the entry of Chinese airplanes into the country in the first week of the coup as just “seafood and other imports”.

The Chinese government representatives once again rejected another proposal to impose sanctions on Myanmar at a special session of the UN Security Council, which was held at the request of Britain on March 31. China’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations said they had been watching Myanmar closely and would not approve any actions to attack its people and businesses in the country. Despite that being said, a conclusion should be drawn that the wording in the phrase “people and businesses” does not seem to mean the people of Myanmar.

This is because of the fact that the protest against the military power grab had been widespread across Myanmar, particularly protests right in front of the Chinese embassy, calling on to stand with the people of Myanmar. Some protesters even put on shirts with “Judge Bao Zheng and Zhan Zhao” in front of the Chinese embassy, and the images circulated on the world social media platforms.

On March 7, the Chinese Foreign Minister, who last met with the coup leader before the coup, told the media that he was willing to mediate the situation in Myanmar without any bias. On March 31, a resolution calling for the release of detained civilian leaders including State Counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi,

came in the midst of opposition from the Chinese envoy at the UN Security Council meeting. The Chinese foreign minister later clarified that he did not want to see a military coup in Myanmar.

The Chinese embassy in Myanmar issued a statement calling on the junta police force “to guarantee the safety of Chinese people and their businesses” after some factories operated by Chinese owners were set on fire on March 14th,



For several decades, Chinese government leaders have been swaying like a bamboo plant in pursuing their interests in dealing with Myanmar leaders, but at present, they must be well aware of the direction in which the Spring Revolution of Myanmar is moving. It is important to note that they should be deciding to take one side before it is too late. Too obviously, the people of Myanmar would not become disheartened in case the Chinese government chose to side with the coup regime and its followers.



2021 in an industrial zone in Hlaing Thayar Township, Yangon. According to reports released in September, about 100 junta police and soldiers provided security for 30 Chinese-owned factories in the Myaungtagar Industrial Zone in Hmawbi township.

During the meeting of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHRC) on June 7th, the Chinese diplomat exhorted that the human rights situation in post-military coup Myanmar not to be discussed and thus be postponed. U Myint Thu, Myanmar ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, resigned from his duty refusing to serve under the State Administration Council (SAC). It can be said that the UNHCR neglected the country while the murderous SAC and its stooges unleashed violent crackdowns on people peacefully protesting against the coup, making arbitrary arrests and killing of them blatantly.

To avoid ridicule from the rest of the world, the Chinese government has not yet officially recognized the coup, but it remains highly questionable to this day if it has aided and abetted the coup leader in an indirect way. This can be said in view of the fact that a week-long visit of Sun Guoxiang, the Chinese government’s special envoy to Asia, to Myanmar from August 21st to 28th was found to happen in a secretive

fashion, and no official information has been released except that he met with members of the SAC including Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

In addition to the supply of COVID-19 vaccines to the coup regime, the Chinese government transferred a fund of six million US dollars to the SAC for 21 Chinese-related development projects in Myanmar. The opening ceremony

for the newly built section of inter-district railway to Myanmar in Lincang Prefecture in Yunnan Province, which is on the other side of Shan's border trading town Chinshwehaw, was also held on August 25th.

At the China-ASEAN Summit held on June 21st, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi acknowledged that the situation in Myanmar is directly related to the interests of China, and added he would continue to maintain a positive stance by upholding the principle of “non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.”

In short, there is no denying that China will have to continue dealing with affairs such as peace, politics, economy, and their nationals as it has a long border with Myanmar, influence over Myanmar governments, and their national interests as well as investments in the country. However, concerning the peace process, caution should always be taken of China's “fire in one hand and water in the other” policy towards Myanmar.

For that reason, China's stance may work in their interests, but for Local Defense Forces (LDFs) and People Defense Forces (PDFs) which are currently resisting the junta and its followers across the country, it should be taken into serious consideration. The Myanmar people's common cause to root out the dictatorship and establish a federal democratic union, which emerged with the Spring Revolution, are predicted to emerge as future political landscapes for the Chinese government to contemplate.

For several decades, Chinese government leaders have been swaying like a bamboo plant in pursuing their interests in dealing with Myanmar leaders, but at present, they must be well aware of the direction in which the Spring Revolution of Myanmar is moving. It is important to note that they should be deciding to take one side before it is too late. Too obviously, the people of Myanmar would not become disheartened in case the Chinese government chose to side with the coup regime and its followers.



The US: the most vocal proclaimer of democracy

In view of the forceful military takeover on February 1st, 2021, only three days after the US government said it would not accept any military threat to alter the outcome of the general elections held on November 8th, 2020, the coup regime and its accomplices obviously did not pay much attention to the US's pressure. Furthermore, it can be assumed that the regime also ignored the efforts of Mark Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the United States, to communicate with them.

In a speech delivered by US President Joe Biden on February 10st, he bluntly said the coup regime would have to relinquish power. Besides, the President also called for the immediate release of all detainees, including State Counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and President U Win Myint, and other political leaders and activists who were arrested for baseless reasons. The military junta was barred from accessing US \$1 billion (K1,000,000,000) of Myanmar government funds held at the Federal Reserve Bank of the United States, and the US President also signed a new order to sanction businesses associated with the coup leaders as well as their family members.

The US government released a statement on February 22nd that they had strongly condemned the violent crackdowns by the military junta and its

followers on unarmed and peaceful protests and making arrests and killings of those involved. The statement also said they would not remain hesitant to act against anyone who has committed violent action against the peaceful protesters. On February 25th, with a request for the release of the detained civilian government leaders and lawmakers, the US House of Representatives proposed a bill in order to prosecute those responsible for the coup in Myanmar.

The White House said in a statement on March 19th that the US President had called a meeting with the Permanent Representative to the UN Security Council to take swift action against the Myanmar coup regime. In the second week of May, the US Embassy in Myanmar warned the US nationals to immediately leave the country.

In April, United States Department of the Treasury announced sanctions against major businesses in the country such as the Myanmar Gems Enterprise, Myanmar Timber Enterprise, and Myanmar Pearl Enterprise as the coup regime and its stooges had been using violence against unarmed and peaceful protesters, arresting, torturing and killing them. The US Department of State also announced it would impose other targeted sanctions to block sources of funding to the Myanmar's junta.

The regime led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing obviously anticipated the pressure and sanctions from the US and has even threatened to work with the countries which will recognize it. The junta's stooges have openly committed acts of violence such as arresting, torturing and killing against the people resisting the coup.

At a hearing on Myanmar by the US House Committee on Foreign Affairs on March 4, U Kyaw Moe Tun, Myanmar's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, representing the National Unity Government (NUG), brought forward the recognition of the NUG, which emerged with the Spring Revolution, as a legitimate government of the country. He suggested that the NUG is granted the control of the Myanmar government funds in the United States for the benefit of the people of Myanmar, and include Myawaddy Bank, Inwa Bank, Foreign Trade bank (MFTB), which are major financial resources of the coup regime, in the US government's sanction list. Daw Khin Ohnmar, founder of Progressive Voice, and former US ambassador Kelley E. Currie also testified at the hearing. Ned Price, spokesperson for the US Department of State, said that a meeting between Myanmar civil society organizations (CSOs) and the US Secretary of State was held on July 8th in order to support human rights and rule of law in Myanmar. The US Secretary of Defense condemned the actions of the Myanmar

coup regime and remarked it was unacceptable in his speech at the International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS) in Singapore on July 27th during his visit to Southeast Asian countries.

In any case, the coup regime and a bunch of its stooges even too daringly attempted to assassinate ambassador U Kyaw Moe Tun who lives in New York. Following a statement from New York Southern District Judge, New Bureau of Investigation and the New York Police Commission that Phyto Hein Htut and Ye Hein Zaw, two Myanmar nationals who hatched a plot to assassinate the ambassador, were arrested on August 6th, the military coup regime responded that had nothing do with the case.



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The United States' stance and actions for the Myanmar people who are trying valiantly to uproot the country's military dictatorship has been resolute over the course of the Spring Revolution. On August 10th, the East Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau of the US State Department announced that they would aid US \$50 million to fulfill the urgent needs of the people of Myanmar who were forced to flee the violent repressions of the coup regime. The aid would cover their food supplies, living conditions, and health, and it will be provided through non-governmental organizations.

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On September 23rd, the US Secretary of State and the ASEAN foreign ministers met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly and discussed the current affairs of Myanmar. During the meeting, Antony Blinken, US Secretary of State, said there was an urgent need to press Myanmar's coup leaders to abide by a five-point consensus of ASEAN. On November 19th, David Cohen, the Deputy Director of the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and Prayut, Prime Minister of Thailand, held an unannounced meeting at the Government House in Bangkok and discussed the affairs of Myanmar. The 45-minute-long closed-door discussion between the two leaders

focused on the security situation in Myanmar, regional stability and humanitarian assistance.

In short, the US government has always been resolutely standing with the people of Myanmar over the course of the Spring Revolution and has expressed condemnation and imposed sanctions against the junta and its followers whenever possible. In the setting of the United Nations and the ASEAN community, frequent friction has been seen between China - watching to bet on the winning horse - and the US - proclaiming democracy.

The United Nations in state of alarm

The United Nations (UN), comprising 193 countries, has been “a hope” for the people of Myanmar who have been opposing the military coup. The fact that the UN has condemned the coup maker Min Aung Hlaing and his reckless followers and not recognized them as a legitimate government has been an empowering factor for the Spring Revolution.

For the coup regime, the UN would have been regarded as an “inconsequential group”. António Guterres, UN Secretary-General, who had been aware of the military men trying to change the results of the 2020 General Election through one-sided allegations, issued a prior warning calling for respect for the outcome of the election held on November 8th, but it was not enough to deter the military regime from grabbing the power on February 1st, 2021.

On the same day, Tom Andrews, UN Special Envoy to Myanmar, described Myanmar’s military takeover as “absolutely unacceptable” and criticized that the coup was in violation of the provisions of the 2008 Constitution drafted by the military.

The coup regime arrested the elected government leaders and tried to mislead the people of Myanmar and the international community by presenting the scheme of “transfer of power by the Vice President”. However, the military regime’s power-snatching was glaringly clear for the world to see. Then they showed their true colors when they started making arbitrary arrests and committed killings in order to maintain their power. Thus, it became a matter of concern for the world powers and the United Nations.

A joint resolution was announced after the second meeting of the UN Security Council of 15 countries including China and Russia on March 10th



during the Myanmar's military coup, strongly condemning the violence perpetrated by the coup leader and his stooges.

The resolution strongly condemns the acts of violence against peaceful protesters, including youths and children. The UN Secretary-General said he had received a letter requesting that the UN Security Council takes action to stop the violent acts of the coup military regime through promises of the “Responsibility to Protect (R2P), via Dr. Sasa, the Special Representative of the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH), largely comprising elected members of the 2020 elections.

The United Nations’ Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM) on March 7th recommended that facts about the crimes that the coup regime have committed since February 1st be recorded and collected in order to bring the coup leaders to justice. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) also issued an R2P warning to protect the people of Myanmar from the ruthless repression of the coup regime and its stooges. During that time, the Myanmar people protesting against the military coup held up “Welcome R2P” signs, calling on the UN and the international community to implement it.

On March 24th, a resolution to act against human rights abuses by the Min Aung Hlaing-led coup regime at the International Criminal Court (ICC) was passed at the 46th UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland. The resolution also calls for the UN Human Rights Council to work closely with the international courts, including the ICC. The Portuguese Permanent Representative to the United Nations, who put forward the draft proposal, said:

“The Myanmar military is stepping up its brutal repressions. It must be held accountable for these actions. We must stop the excessive use of force by the military and allow the people of Myanmar to exercise their rights.”

The resolution to suspend arms exports to Myanmar, for the coup regime to uphold the results of the 2020 General Election, and release all political prisoners, including State Counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, was put to vote at the UN Assembly on 17th June. Although the decision could be considered an international pressure on the coup regime, it fell far short of the R2P expectations of the people of Myanmar. ” The best of a bad bunch” was a list of “countries which bet on the winning horse” and those that stood with the people of Myanmar were clearly seen among the 193 countries which voted.

During the referendum, a total of 36 countries including China, Russia and a few ASEAN members - Brunei, Cambodia and Thailand, abstained from voting. Among the total 119 countries that supported the resolution, including Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Singapore from ASEAN, Belarus was the only



country which voted against it. As a result, the coup regime's efforts to mingle with the international community became increasingly difficult, thus strengthening the Spring Revolution of the people of Myanmar as a whole.

The United Nations Security Council held an a-ria-formula discussion about Myanmar on July 29th attended by the women, youth and children's affairs minister of the National Unity Government, the Kachin Political Interim Coordination Team (KPICT) and Myanmar's permanent representative to the United Nations U Kyaw Moe Tun.



killed and burned nearly 40 civilians, including two employees from Save The Children which has been helping internally displaced persons, in a mass killing in Hpruso Township in Karenni (Kayah) State.

This incident has made the UN extremely concerned. In the midst of these worries, it was a boost for the Myanmar Spring Revolution to see the efforts made to retain Myanmar permanent envoy to the UN, Ambassador U Kyaw Moe Tun who opposed the military junta and allied with the National Unity Government (NUG).



recognized the military junta. It also added that during the Spring Revolution period the body has witnessed mass killings, mass burning of towns and villages, the use of detained citizens as human shields and the escalation of air strikes in villages perpetrated by the military junta and its allies. The UN is deeply

During the meeting, minister Naw Susanna Hla Hla Soe pointed out that if the international community is indecisive on the recognition of the National Unity Government, then Myanmar could become a failed state under the military government where it cannot control the spread of COVID-19 and the economy collapsing.

KPICT secretary Nsang Gum Seng raised several points to halt the terrorist acts of the military junta by managing the import of military weapons in the country, designating no-fly zones in the border areas of China, Thailand and India, putting sanctions on the military generals, their families and their businesses, not recognizing the military junta as the legitimate government and being able to sue the military for its violations against the citizens at international courts.

As the Myanmar people have lost a lot of lives during the coup period, they must not give up and must push until the end to unroot the military dictatorship, Ambassador U Kyaw Moe Tun said.

The United Nations replied that it has not

concerned daily due to these acts and has been requesting for the military council to halt its terrorist activities.

But the military which staged the coup is not differentiating between enemies or allies and have killed and burned nearly 40 civilians, including two employees from Save The Children which has been helping internally displaced persons, in a mass killing in Hpruso Township in Karenni (Kayah) State.

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The UN Secretary-General praised the regional bloc, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), in playing a key role to extinguish the “Myanmar bubble” which has been worrying the UN daily since April 19th and pointed out the importance of coordination between the UN and the ASEAN. The actions of the two associations must be observed in the future, he added.

ASEAN and its dilemma of the five-point consensus

As member countries of ASEAN did not put out any single statement regarding the brutal crackdowns, arrests and killings of the people by the Myanmar military council and its members during the first four months since the coup, it is observed that the ASEAN member states do not have transparency on its people. The Myanmar people who are participating in various categories of the Spring Revolution to oppose the military coup did not receive any glimpse of hope from ASEAN and instead it seemed more like the coup leader Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and those in cahoots with are expecting some sort of recognition from the regional association.

This raises the question on whether ASEAN is similar to China where it is adopting the “principle of non-interference” and instead pushing efforts to play golf with governments which do not side with the people or a superficial group of individuals. This is evident by allowing coup leader Min Aung Hlaing to attend the ASEAN Emergency Meeting on April 24th and ignoring the cries for help of the Myanmar people.



The junta leaders attended the emergency meeting without receiving recognition of their legitimacy from other foreign governments and accepted the ASEAN Five Point Consensus.

The five points are: (1) there shall be immediate cessation of violence in Myanmar and all parties shall exercise utmost restraint, (2) constructive dialogue among all parties concerned shall commence to seek a peaceful solution in the interests of the people, (3) a special envoy of the ASEAN Chair shall facilitate mediation of the dialogue process, with the assistance of the Secretary-General of ASEAN, (4) ASEAN shall provide humanitarian assistance through the AHA Center and (5) the special envoy and delegation shall visit Myanmar to meet with all parties concerned.

From then until October 26th, a period of six months and the time for the ASEAN Summit, apart from appointing a special envoy, the remaining points of the consensus did not meet its goal.



The 88 Generation Peace and Open Society, formed by leaders of the 88 Generation, in a statement on April 19th, strongly condemned ASEAN for attempting to get the military junta recognition and that there will be accountability for the killings committed by the military council.



For the year 2022, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen took over the position of ASEAN chair and in an announcement said that he will get the ASEAN special envoy to visit Myanmar and pressure the military generals in a negotiation effort involving all stakeholders.

But, Hun Sen who now has been transferred the “hammer” of being the ASEAN chair has ignored the cries of the Myanmar people and met with the military leaders for a discussion in Myanmar on January 7th, 2022.

Whether the new ASEAN chair Hun Sen wanted to display his abilities or support a dictatorship like “two peas in a pod”- the actual reason remains unclear but Hun Sen’s meeting with the coup leaders did very little to support the Spring Revolution aimed at disposing of the military dictatorship.

Furthermore, after Hun Sen’s Myanmar visit, the military council and its allies escalated its air attacks and offensives against the People’s Defence Forces (PDFs) who are resisting the regime in the regions and states as well as the civilians.

To sum up, the consensus arrived between ASEAN, including the new chair Hun Sen, and the Myanmar military leader Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is not clear effort for the people of Myanmar but buying time for the military regime to prolong their illegitimate takeover and providing more time for brutal crackdowns against the civilians.

After visiting Myanmar, ASEAN chair Hun Sen held an online meeting with Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on January 26th and discussed the implementation of a five-point consensus, the cessation of violence and the delivery of humanitarian assistance for the Myanmar people, according to a statement from the Cambodian foreign ministry. It remains to be seen if Hun Sen will be a companion to the Myanmar coup leaders.

During voting time at the United Nations General Assembly on June 17th, including Ambassador U Kyaw Moe Tun who is representing the National Unity Government (NUG), Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and

Vietnam supported the Spring Revolution. However, Thailand, Brunei and Hun Sen's Cambodia are seen as taking on the same stance as China and Russia of betting on the winning horse.

Hundreds of the UN members including EU countries are observing closely for the implementation of the ASEAN's five-point consensus.

Due to ASEAN's actions, questions have been raised by stakeholders during the Myanmar Spring Revolution period on whether ASEAN is a superficial group established for the benefits of dictators.

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What is India doing?

The answer to this question is extremely difficult. But, India can be said as a country which has remained silent about the military junta. One noticeable incident is the visit of the Indian foreign secretary to Myanmar on December 22nd and 23rd, 2021. As India shares a long border with Myanmar, it is an undeniable fact that whatever changes happening in Myanmar would have a huge effect on.

According to the AP news agency in the second week of December, the Myanmar military council handed over five Indian insurgents who were arrested on the Myanmar side, to the Indian police force.

The Indian foreign secretary who met with coup leader Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was only able to release a single statement which called for the speedy restoration of democracy in Myanmar, the release of those detained and an end to all violence. In the statement, there was also a riddle-like information on meeting with Myanmar political party leaders including members of the National League for Democracy party and it received criticism from top NLD leaders who are evading arrests from the military council.

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a defence firm which the Indian government owns a majority of the share, supplied radar equipment and devices including technologies for coastal surveillance to the Myanmar military council, according to activist group Justice for Myanmar on June 14th.



during the Spring Revolution period, India seems to be sitting on the fence, unlike China which is betting on the winning horse, in the matter of disposing of the military dictatorship and setting up a federal democratic union.



The BEL is a firm cooperating with technology companies from Sweden, France, the Netherlands, Denmark, Israel and Italy and have shares from companies from the US, Japan, South Korea and Britain.

On the other hand, tens of thousands of locals from many townships in Chin State as well as in Kalay township in Sagaing Region are fleeing to Mizoram state, in northeastern India as fighting intensifies between the military council forces and the Chinland Defence Forces.

The Mizoram state government is planning to hand out Refugee ID to over 30,000 displaced persons from Myanmar.

In summary, during the Spring Revolution period, India seems to be sitting on the fence, unlike China which is betting on the winning horse, in the matter of disposing of the military dictatorship and setting up a federal democratic union.

The EU and international community

The European Union's, comprising 27 countries including Germany, France, Austria and Denmark, policy chief said in his opening address during the EU Commission meeting on February 9th that the EU would not do any sort of actions which will legitimize the Myanmar military council and continue supporting the Myanmar people. In addition, the EU announced on February 16th that it would temporarily suspend the Myanmar police transformation project which it has funded since 2016.

The Delegation of the European Union to Myanmar and embassies from EU countries, in a statement released on March 19th, called on the military junta to stop its violence against the people, release all those detained, revoke the military governance and the state of emergency, restore communications and connectivity and transfer power to the democratically elected government.

Moreover, the EU slapped sanctions on 10 military officials including military leader Senior General Min Aung Hlaing as well as the newly-appointed election commission chair.

Additionally, assets by the military-owned enterprises Myanma Economic Holdings Limited and Myanmar Economic Corporation have been frozen and visa restrictions have been imposed, according to the statement on March 19th. On April 5th, the military leaders and its allies escalated its brutal crackdowns, arrests and killings on the peaceful anti-coup Myanmar protesters, leading the EU to announce that it will suspend all development projects in the country. The European Union's actions and pressures on the military junta during the coup can be seen as fast and offering a boost in morale to the Myanmar citizens opposing the military coup.

Since earlier there has been engagement and communications with the National Unity Government, which was formed by the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw during the Spring Revolution, Nablia Massrali, the EU spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy said on April 20th. She observed that the NUG, which includes ethnic people and women, plays a vital role in resolving the current predicaments in Myanmar.

In regards to the Myanmar military coup, there are those from the international community, such as the EU, which is actually concerned and putting pressure and there are also countries which would "bet on the winning horse".

There are also countries which are involved in engagements of both the



military council and groups representing the Myanmar citizens who are opposing the military rule.

The British government, which left the EU, called for the immediate release of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other detained political leaders on the fourth day of the coup and said that it will be putting in work so that the Myanmar democratic movement will not turn the clock back.

The British Permanent Representative to the European Union, Dame Barbara Woodward, together with the EU on February 8th requested an emergency meeting about Myanmar at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

Shigeru Kitamura, head of the Japanese National Security Council, and Jake Sullivan, the US National Security Advisor, discussed via telephone about Myanmar on February 18th and there was close cooperation and agreement between Japan, America, Australia and India.

The South Korean National Security Council also said that it is concerned about the instability in Myanmar caused by the coup and that it will provide protection for the people opposing the military coup as well as for South Korean citizens.

The Norwegian minister for international development said that it will be suspending all awareness projects conducted between the two governments due to the change in the situation in Myanmar brought by the military coup.

Canada announced that it is imposing economic sanctions on nine people including Min Aung Hlaing as a response to the military coup.

In conclusion, pressure from the international community and sanctions as a result of the military coup led by Min Aung Hlaing in Myanmar, are primarily targeted at the military generals and Myanmar people lost the benefits and rights they had during the years under the elected governments.



It is evident that the international community's, including the UN's, worries and strong condemnations against the military council's mass killings and aerial bomb attacks are not sufficient to topple the Myanmar military coup.



The participation of Myanmar people living overseas in the anti-coup anti-military movement also added more energy to the Spring Revolution.

One year after the military coup, the Myanmar people have gone from protesting peacefully against the coup to having to pick up whatever weapons they can to defend themselves due to the military council's violence, arrests and killings, and finally to eliminate the military dictators in a revolution. The revolution has spread across the country and this is showing the importance for countries around the world to give heed to Myanmar's affairs.

It is evident that the international community's, including the UN's, worries

During the coup period, there were over ten multinational businesses which either left or stopped their investments in Myanmar. These companies are energy giant Total from France, oil and natural gas giant Chevron from the US, Adani Ports from India, the British American Tobacco, telecommunications firm Telenor from Norway, steel company POSCO from South Korea, oil and gas firm Woodside from Australia and wholesale company Metro from Germany.

In addition to the involvement of foreign governments, the Spring Revolution also saw the participation of international organizations to reject the military coup. During the second week of April, a democratic and anti-military dictatorship movement, the Milk Tea Alliance, which includes members from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand, Indonesia, India and Myanmar, gave a shock to military leaders.

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Analysis

A protest commemorating the one-year anniversary of the Myanmar coup was held in Vienna, capital of Austria, on January 29th at the Stephansplatz Square. The protest included the Myanmar community and people who oppose the military coup including some Austrian parliament members and a ceremony was also held to mark those who died during the military coup.

In South Korea's capital of Seoul on January 28th, South Korean monks marched for three hours from the Myanmar embassy to the Myanmar military attaché office while practicing the “five-point veneration”, a Buddhist concept of prostration. A praying ceremony was also held for democracy activists who died due to shootings, arrests and tortures by those under the military council. Back in Myanmar, the entire country held a “silent strike”, one of the movements during the Spring Revolution to reject and take down the military dictatorship. On January 27th, there was a meeting between the US foreign policy advisor Derek Chollet and the National Unity Government's (NUG) vice president Duwa Lashi La and the two discussed on the actions between the ASEAN and the UN special envoy on overcoming the Myanmar crisis and Derek Chollet said that the US will strongly support the restoration of democracy together with the Myanmar people. This is the second meeting between Derek Chollet and the NUG's top leaders.

The Chinese government which has been pushing for “non-interference” has requested the Kachin Independence Organization/Kachin Independence Army (KIO/KIA) to stop the fighting in Kachin State and northern parts of Shan State as sport festival is planned to be held during the Lunar New Year, according to a statement by the KIO/KIA, an ethnic armed group which has stood on the side of justice during the Spring Revolution and has been fighting the military regime.

During the UN Security Council's closed-door meeting on Myanmar, on January 28th, the Chinese representative to the UN said that the main objective should be to avoid a civil war in Myanmar. The representative's statement seems to be neglecting the flames of the civil war and war refugees which are rooted to the 1948 Myanmar Independence. In addition, the Chinese representative is also neglecting that the spreads of the resistance to the entire country is the result

of the illegitimate takeover by military leader Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his allies.

The Norwegian permanent representative to the UN, who's also the chair of the UN Security Council's rotating presidency, said that one year after the military coup, Myanmar's political, economy, human rights and humanitarian aids are in bad situation and the country is close to being a failed state. UN Special Rapporteur Tom Andrews also added that the military council and its allies are treating the Myanmar people as enemies. He went on to say that the military leader Min Aung Hlaing is lying outrightly to the international community including the ASEAN.

“At the 24th ASEAN Summit in April, Min Aung Hlaing believed that the consensus was a propaganda planned by the others. But he was involved in that meeting and agreed on those points. One of the points in the consensus is to stop the violence. But when Min Aung Hlaing returned to Myanmar he said that there wasn't a consensus. He said that these points were just suggestions.”

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, who's also the rotating chair of ASEAN, is turning a deaf ear to the cries for help of the Myanmar people and continuing engagement with the Myanmar military regime including its leader. Hun Sen is planning to invite Min Aung Hlaing and its allies to the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting on February 16th and 17th, depending on the implementation of the Five Point Consensus. But it remains unclear on how Hun Sen, who's also China's lackey, will measure how much of the Five Point Consensus has been completed.

In conclusion, until the anniversary of the military coup, the responsibility and accountability of the Myanmar military's inhumane actions including violence acts, mass killings, arrests and murders, using human shields in the frontlines, aerial attacks with explosives and bombs, is still being based and pressured on the ASEAN Five Point Consensus. The consensus is also a focal point for China, the US, the EU and the UN.

Currently for Myanmar, in order to stop the violence of the military regime the following measures would be more effective and be beneficial to the Myanmar people than the aforementioned Five Point Consensus. The measures are: to designate no-fly zones due to war and monitoring whether the measure is followed, to declare and create the safe zones which can provide protection for the civilians, and to announce international humanitarian corridors and allow cross-border aid without any restrictions.

Moreover, the National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC) held the first

People's Congress in the last week of January, 2022 and reaffirmed that the international community should take heed to officially recognize the NUF, sanction or block off revenue for the military and no tomfoolery should be made with the military council by any organizations including the UN.

If the international community is issuing more condemnation about the military's violence after the coup and putting pressure on the military council, it will not be effective and there were no emergency responses seen for the Myanmar crisis and hardships.



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For the Myanmar people looking for the countries which gave attention to the Myanmar affair during the Spring Revolution, it will be countries “which are betting on the winning horse” and countries “which are deeply concerned”.

A special case to take notice is that the current UN Special Envoy to Myanmar Miss Noeleen Heyzer and ASEAN rotating chair Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen steps to approach the Myanmar issue.

Ms Noeleen Heyzer seems to believe that the military council, which is being rejected by the Myanmar people, is in control of the country and ridiculed the Myanmar people's chant that “we will never be governed”.

Similarly, Mr Hun Sen is neglecting the wishes and requests of the Myanmar people and painting the military leaders in a good light by visiting Myanmar and meeting them. Afterwards, he held blatant online discussions. A result of this is the false information that Australian citizen Dr Sean Turnell has been released.

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