Model letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

We, [name of your union], strongly condemn the military coup in Myanmar staged by General Min Aung Hlaing on 1 February that toppled the country’s democratically elected government and installed a despotic military junta.

As of the latest count, the military has killed more than 900 people, arrested 5,000 civilians and dismissed 300,000 workers. More than 175,000 people have been displaced and the income of 83 percent of Burmese families have been slashed to half. Currently, more than 25 million Burmese people are now living in abject poverty.

The world cannot turn its back on Myanmar. The international community must take urgent action against the military coup to end the human rights catastrophe in Myanmar.

As part of the international trade union movement, we ask you to support the Burmese people’s struggle, as expressed through their Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM), to end the military rule in the country and restore the civilian government elected in November 2020. We urge you not to give any semblance of legitimacy to the illegal military junta.

At the 109th International Labour Conference (ILC), the global unions scored an important victory in blocking the military junta from representing Myanmar by invoking the interim decisions of the 73rd and 74th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the World Health Conference and the 42nd Conference of the Food and Agricultural Organization.

But more needs to be done. At the 75th UNGA in September, the military junta will once again try to represent Myanmar at the international level. We must not allow it to do so and divide the opinion of the UN’s member-states. The military junta is an illegitimate regime that does not in any way represent the democratic voice and aspirations of the Burmese people.

We appeal to your good conscience to support the global call to recognise the National Unity Government ([NUG](https://www.nugmyanmar.org/en/)) of the Republic of Myanmar. The NUG is the Burmese people’s supreme symbol of defiance against military tyranny and commitment to democracy. It was established on 16 April by the democratically-elected Burmese legislative body in exile. It includes representatives of the National League of Democracy (NLD), all ethnic minority groups, different political parties, trade unions, youth and women’s organisations.

The recognition of the NUG by nation-states, and the UNGA in particular, is crucial to stop the military junta’s violent oppression of the Burmese people and return power to the civilian democratic government. It is also necessary to facilitate the Burmese people’s immediate access to humanitarian aid, including the rollout of vaccines to contain the spread of COVID-19 in the country.

In line with this, we urge you and the government to organise a meeting with the NUG, including NUCC trade union representatives, to get a full picture of its work. This will greatly help in promoting a concerted effort of bilateral recognition at the international level that has already been started by the Czech Republic and supported by democratic parliaments in a growing number of Western and Asian countries.

We at the [name of your union] are more than willing to help you in this endeavor. We hope to sit down with you and the cabinet ministers for a meeting to discuss this pressing matter at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,

Xxxx