

Resolution No. 4

RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN MYANMAR

The 20th ITUC-AP Regional General Council Meeting, 10-11 March 2021, Virtual

DENOUNCES	the military coup in Myanmar and the arbitrary detention of the leaders of the National League for Democracy (NLD) party, including State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and President U Win Mynt, along with cabinet ministers and other activists in a bid to trample upon the aspirations of the Myanmar people for democracy and to discredit the results of the election in November last year;
FURTHER DENOUNCES	the declaration of state of emergency and the adoption of laws that allow the military to further tighten its grip on its illegitimate power. Under the martial law, the military junta banned all public gatherings and other forms of protests and denied freedom of association and freedom of expression to the working people of Myanmar;
NOTES WITH CONCERN	that the Central Committee members and the federation leaders of the Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar (CTUM), as well as the leaders of the Myanmar Industries Craft and Service - Trade Union Federation (MICS) have been charged; that sixteen labour organisations have been declared illegal by the military regime; that civil servants and workers have been terminated or forced to return to work; and that trade union and labour leaders are forced into hiding as a result of the door-to-door hunting by the military;
CONDEMNS	the ruthless violence and brutality in suppressing the peaceful, country-wide Civil Disobedience Movement in Myanmar. The unrestrained use of violence and lethal weapons by the Myanmar military resulted in bloodshed, as more than 50 protesters ¹ have been slain since the coup started – 38 of whom were killed on 3 March, which is considered as the bloodiest day of protest as of this writing;
DEMANDS	the military regime in Myanmar to drop all the charges on the political leaders, activists, protesters, and trade union leaders; immediately release all the detainees under the coup; return the political power to the civilian government; stop using lethal weapons and violence against the protesters; respect workers and civil servants' rights to freely associate and to strike; and uphold the legal status of the 16 labour organisations that were recently deemed illegal;
EXTENDS	full support and solidarity to the CTUM, the MICS, the trade union movement, as well as the workers and the people of Myanmar in their struggle to reclaim peace, justice and democracy;
URGES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) all affiliates to exert pressure on their national governments to demand the Myanmar military to immediately release all the detainees under the coup, return political power to the civilian government, stop the violent suppression of the peaceful protests, respect the fundamental rights of the people, including the right to strike, freedom of expression and assembly, and right to freely choose their own government;(b) all companies that operate or invest in Myanmar to end their commercial ties with the Myanmar military, protect the rights of their employees throughout the supply chain in Myanmar, and use their leverage to demand for the release of political detainees and the restoration of human rights and democracy in Myanmar.

¹ As of 4 March 2021, 54 have been confirmed killed since the coup started. The estimated number of casualties, however, is 68.