

## ACTU EXECUTIVE

WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> & THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2021

### RESOLUTION

#### **Solidarity with the people of Myanmar**

ACTU Executive denounces the military coup on 1 February 2021 in Myanmar which has suspended civilian government and effectively returned full power to the military. The military's coup follows their 2017 campaign of terror against ethnic and religious minorities, which included credible allegations of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity against the Rohingya people, as well as war crimes and crimes against humanity in Kachin and Shan States.

ACTU Executive condemns the violence and brutality of the military regime in suppressing the peaceful, mass Civil Disobedience Movement in Myanmar. ACTU executive condemns the crackdown on the trade union movement, and notes with concern that the Central Committee members and the federation leaders of the Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar (CTUM) and 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.

ACTU Executive calls on the military regime to stop the use of violence against the protesters; drop all charges against trade unionists, political leaders, activists and protesters; immediately release all detainees; ; return political power to the civilian government; respect workers' rights to freedom of association; and uphold the legal status of the labour organisations that have been declared illegal.

#### **Australian Government**

The Australian Government has been a key development partner for Myanmar since 2012 and has had diplomatic relations since 1952. ACTU Executive notes that the Australian Government has finally suspended bilateral military cooperation between the Australian Defence Forces and the Tatmadaw (Myanmar Armed Forces) over the weekend – over a month since the coup began. ACTU Executive notes that as a key development partner and regional power, the Australian Government must take further urgent action to support the people of Myanmar.

ACTU Executive calls on the Australian Government to implement sanctions against the military, its leaders and its business interests and business partners; provide urgent and comprehensive assistance to the Civil Disobedience Movement; use all diplomatic leverage and influence to ensure the rule of law is upheld and a return to diplomatic norms, civilian led government, and the immediate release of all those detained; and support accountability mechanisms and proceedings including at the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court.

#### **Australian businesses**

The coup leader, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, along with others in the Myanmar military, has extensive business interests including lucrative deals with companies outside Myanmar. Any multinational company currently operating in Myanmar is at risk of legitimising the coup and funding the military regime.

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ACTU Executive welcomes the recent decision of Woodside, following pressure from MUA, AWU, ACTU, Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA and Australian civil society organisations, to pull its offshore drilling team out of Myanmar, and calls on other Australian companies operating in Myanmar, including Myanmar Metals, Transcontinental Group, ROC and Tap Oil, to suspend operations and divest from any relationships with military owned, controlled or linked businesses and organisations, to ensure that no money flows to the Myanmar military.

ACTU Executive recognises the strength and courage of the people of Myanmar who are resisting the return to military rule and extends our full solidarity to the trade union movement and the people of Myanmar in their struggle for democracy to be restored.

**Moved:**            **Alison Barnes, NTEU**

**Seconded:**