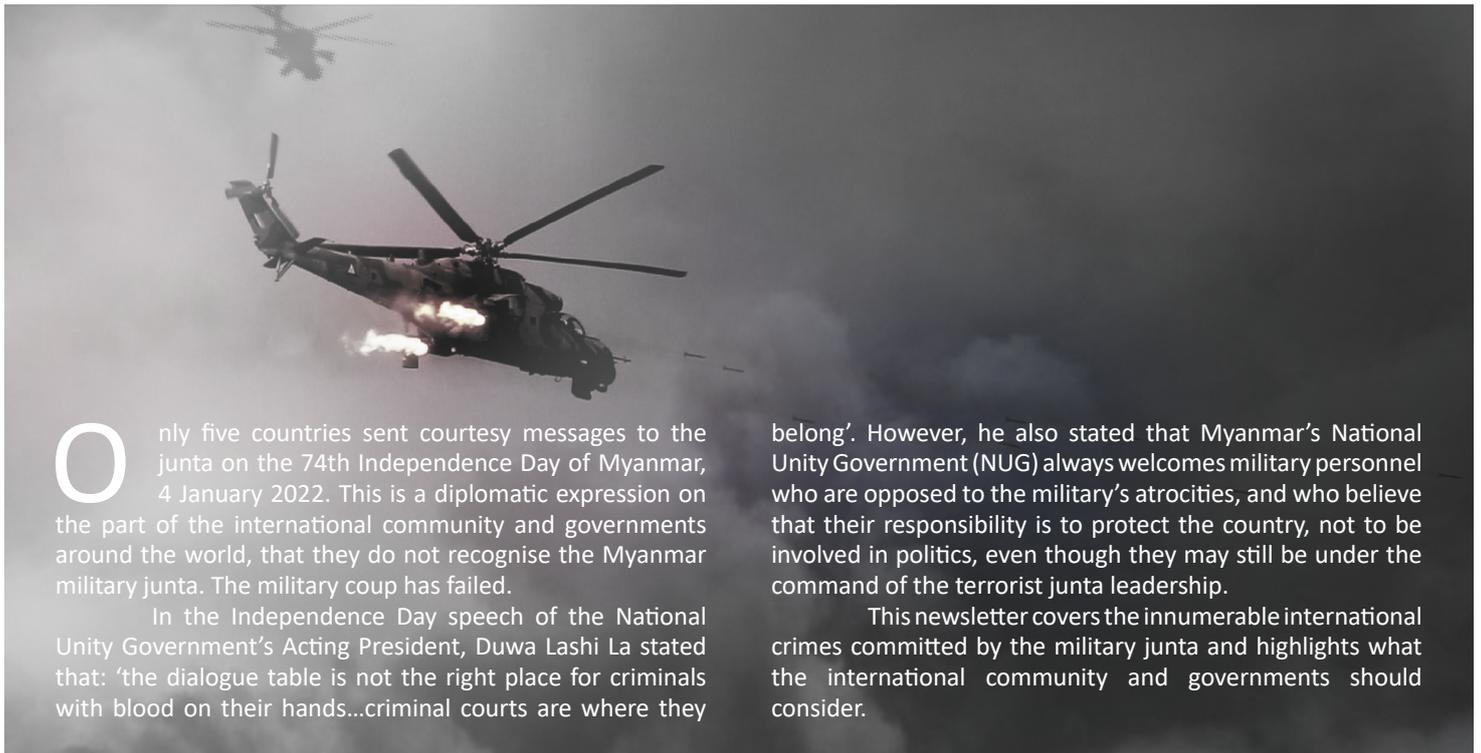




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CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE UNLIKELY AS MYANMAR JUNTA REVERTS TO STRATEGY OF MASSACRES, BURNINGS, AND AIRSTRIKES



Only five countries sent courtesy messages to the junta on the 74th Independence Day of Myanmar, 4 January 2022. This is a diplomatic expression on the part of the international community and governments around the world, that they do not recognise the Myanmar military junta. The military coup has failed.

In the Independence Day speech of the National Unity Government's Acting President, Duwa Lashi La stated that: 'the dialogue table is not the right place for criminals with blood on their hands...criminal courts are where they

belong'. However, he also stated that Myanmar's National Unity Government (NUG) always welcomes military personnel who are opposed to the military's atrocities, and who believe that their responsibility is to protect the country, not to be involved in politics, even though they may still be under the command of the terrorist junta leadership.

This newsletter covers the innumerable international crimes committed by the military junta and highlights what the international community and governments should consider.

The reason the country is undergoing political instability is because the military believes that they have to be part of our country's political leadership. As long as the military holds this supreme saviour mindset, there will still be political instability in the future, and the current problems stem from this mindset. We need to understand that this is the source of all these problems.

- H.E Zin Mar Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs, National Unity Government, Oct 29, 2021.

AIRS TRIKES ON CIVILIAN AREA: A STRATEGY TO OVERCOME THE MYANMAR PEOPLE

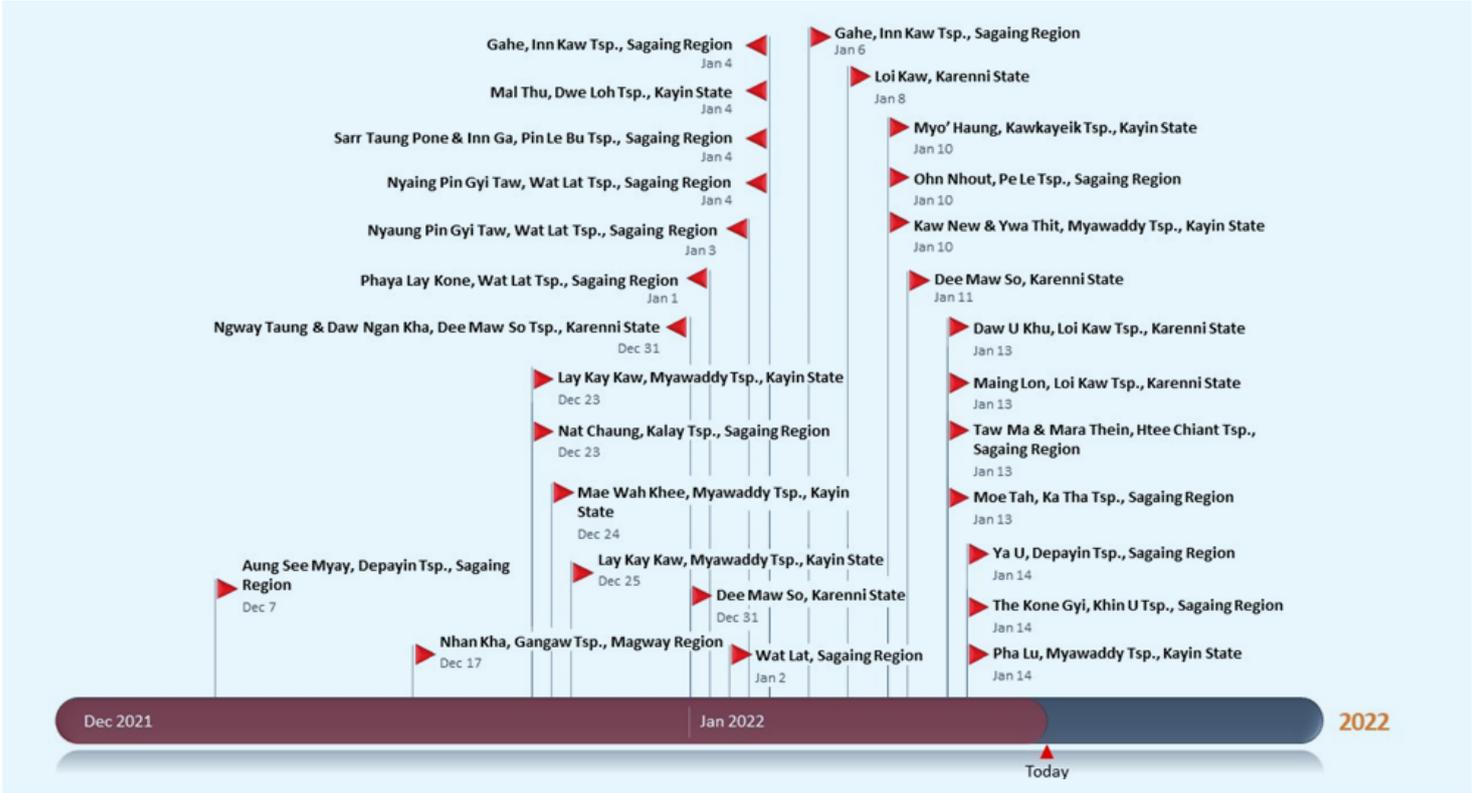
The Myanmar military junta is the only terrorist group in the world with an Air Force. To date its air force has carried out airstrikes on civilian areas in 26 townships across 7 States/Regions in Myanmar since the Myanmar anti-coup movement gained momentum. In December 2021, the junta's air force conducted 15 airstrikes in Sagaing and Magway Regions, and Kayin and Karenni States. In the first half of January 2022, there were 11 attacks in Sagaing Region, 4 attacks in Kayin State, and

a further 4 attacks in Karenni State, destroying private and public properties including churches. Many civilians were injured or died as a result.

Figure 1 shows that the terrorist junta has been stepping up airstrikes on civilian areas since mid-December. According to military sources, the appointment of a new Air Force Commander-in-Chief on 10 January 2022 was due to dissatisfaction with the former commander-in-chief's actions.



Figure 1: Airstrikes on Civilian Areas from 1 Dec 2021 to 14 Jan 2022



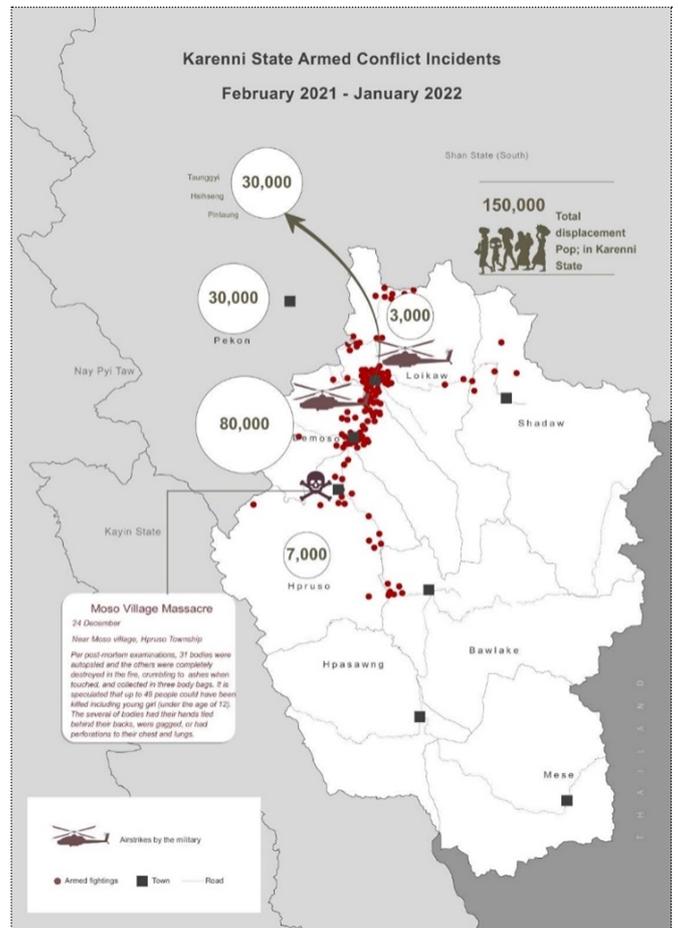
The junta airdropped leaflets in civilian areas explicitly announcing that villages affiliated with the local defence forces would be relocated and combined with other relocated villages. (Figure 2) This proves that the military council's airstrikes were deliberately targeting civilian settlements across the country to create fear and to employ the junta's notorious 4-cut strategy systematically and intentionally.

Figure 2: The Junta's Airdropped Leaflet with Messages Threatening Local Communities



As a result of the series of attacks, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) has steadily increased in Myanmar; bringing the total number of IDPs to about 505,000 since the attempted coup on 1 Feb 2021 (<https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/myanmar>). More than half of the population in Karenni State have now abandoned their homes to find a place safe from the junta's brutal repression and airstrikes. (Figure 3)

Figure 3: Situation of IDP in Loi Kaw and Hpruso of Karenni State due to the Junta's airstrikes



MASSACRES: A STRATEGY TO DEFEAT THE ANTI-COUP MOVEMENT

On Christmas Eve 2021, the junta's armed forces arrested over 38 people and burned them to death, including two Save the Children staff, near Hpruso in Karenni State. People around the world were shocked by the news. In reality, such brutal killings of innocent civilians have been the modus operandi of the Myanmar military for decades. For the past year since the failed coup on 1 February 2021, the Myanmar military has attempted to intimidate the people of Myanmar to quell the anti-coup movement; the military junta has sent thousands of fully armed troops to the areas where strong local resistance groups have emerged and conducted a series of mass killings of civilians as a strategy to overcome the resistance. The areas where the massacre took place are Thantlang and Mindat in Chin State; Kalay, Ka Ni, Pa Le, Salingyi, Myaung and Yin Mar Bin in Sagaing Region; and Myaing, Yaw and Saw in Magway Region. (Figure 4)

Note: The cases presented in the Figure 5 are well-known cases which have appeared in reports and media. There may be more.

The terrorist junta's armed forces' systematically invaded and attacked civilian areas, village by village, firing on civilians, torturing with the intent to inflict severe pain, and intentionally killing civilians especially through injuries to the face and head, and burning villages. This pattern was the same everywhere regardless of race, religion, and location. This pattern of intentionally and systematically committing these crimes across the country, shows that this is the military junta's strategic response to the Myanmar people's anti-coup movement.

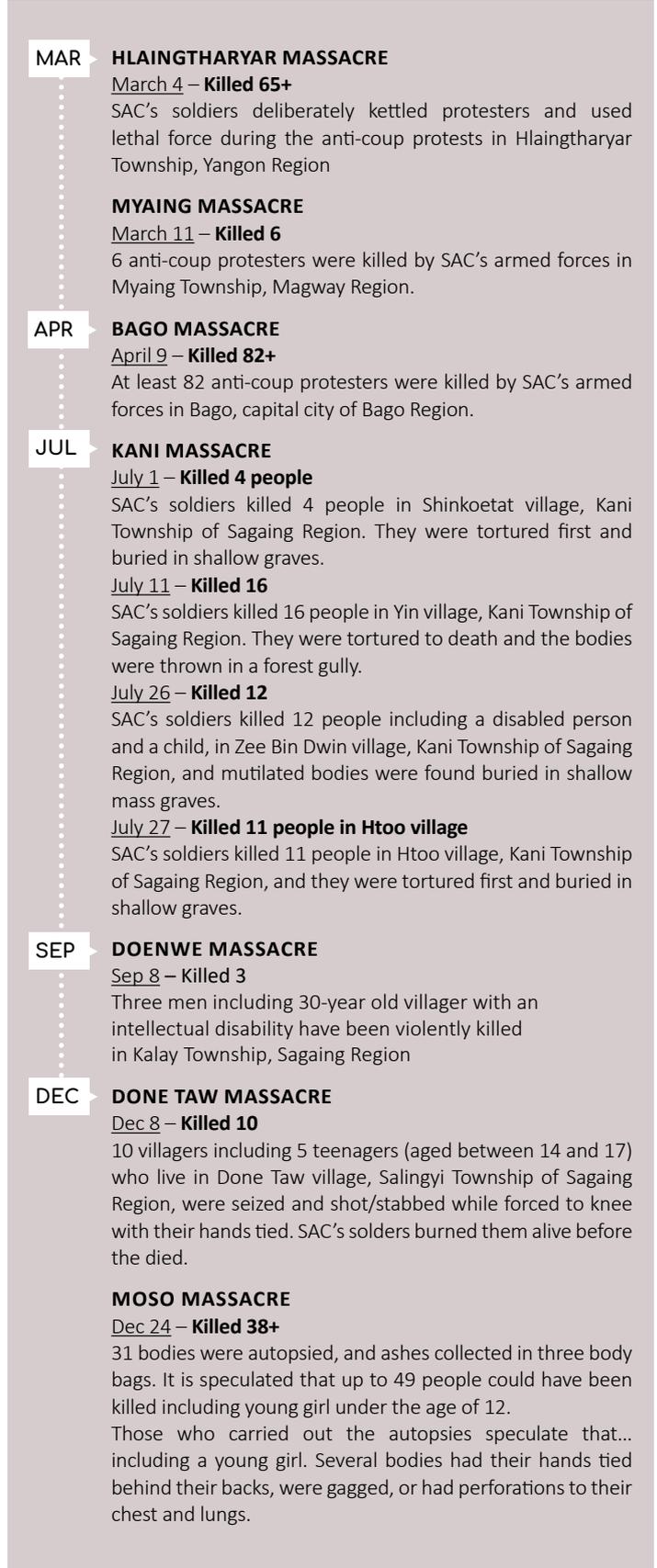
THE MILITARY JUNTA'S INNATE BEHAVIOUR

In addition to terrorising local civilians in armed resistance stronghold areas, the Terrorist military junta does not condone peaceful demonstrations either. The international community was shocked when the world media presented video footage of the violent crackdowns against peaceful demonstrations, for example on 5 December 2021 where a military truck rammed into anti-coup protesters and shot at them in Kyimyindaing Township, Yangon.

In fact, since 1 February 2021, when the coup was attempted, there have been 29 similar violent incidents across the country, where vehicles driven by the junta's security forces were rammed

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Figure 4: Massacres Conducted by the Junta's Armed Forces



Source: NUG MoHA and MoHR's Reports and various World News Agencies

into protesters (Figure 6). The military council has in fact authorized this method of cracking down on peaceful protesters. In the past, many foreign democratic countries invested significantly in police and military reform in Myanmar; and police forces received crowd control training to be able to manage peaceful demonstrations properly. The military junta's reaction to the peaceful demonstrations since Feb 2021 demonstrate that their behaviour remains inalterable.

Figure 5: Incidents where peaceful demonstrators have been rammed by security force vehicles, since the Feb 1 attempted coup

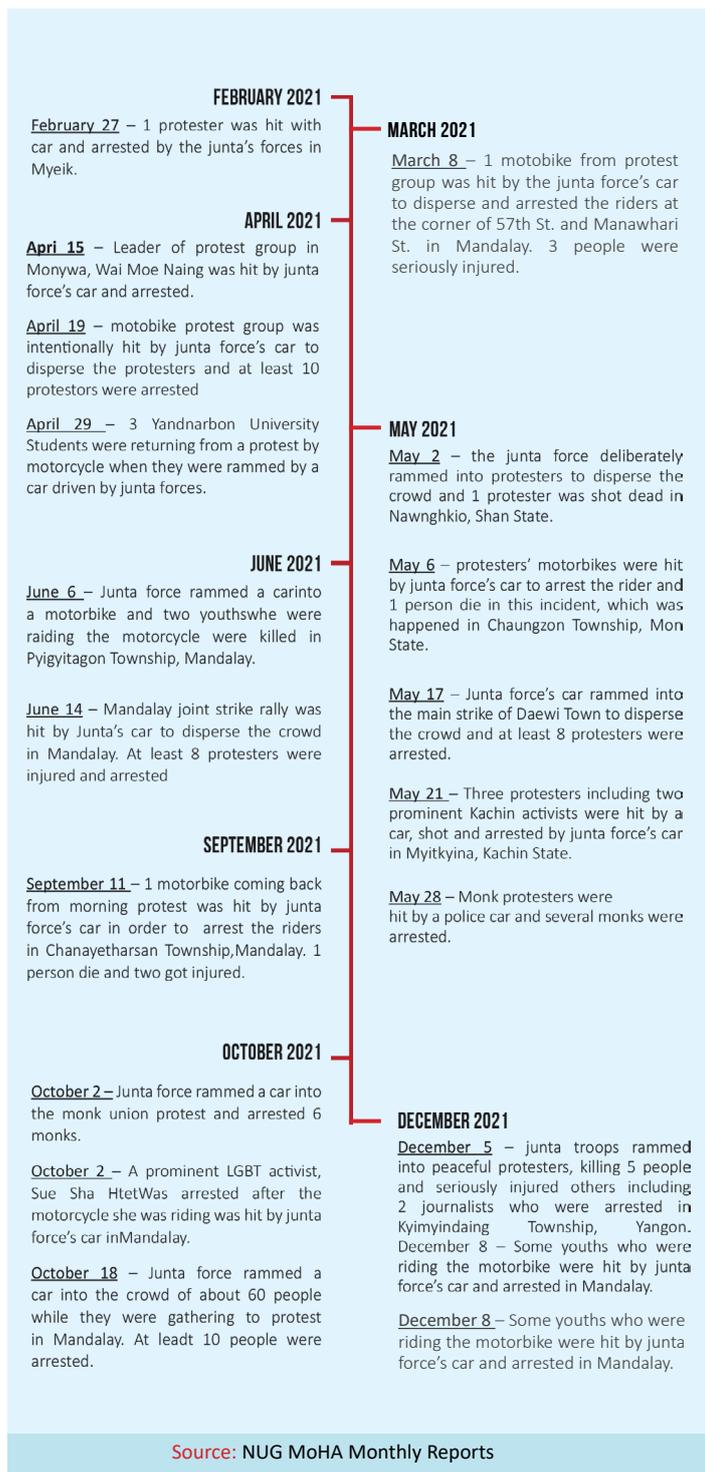
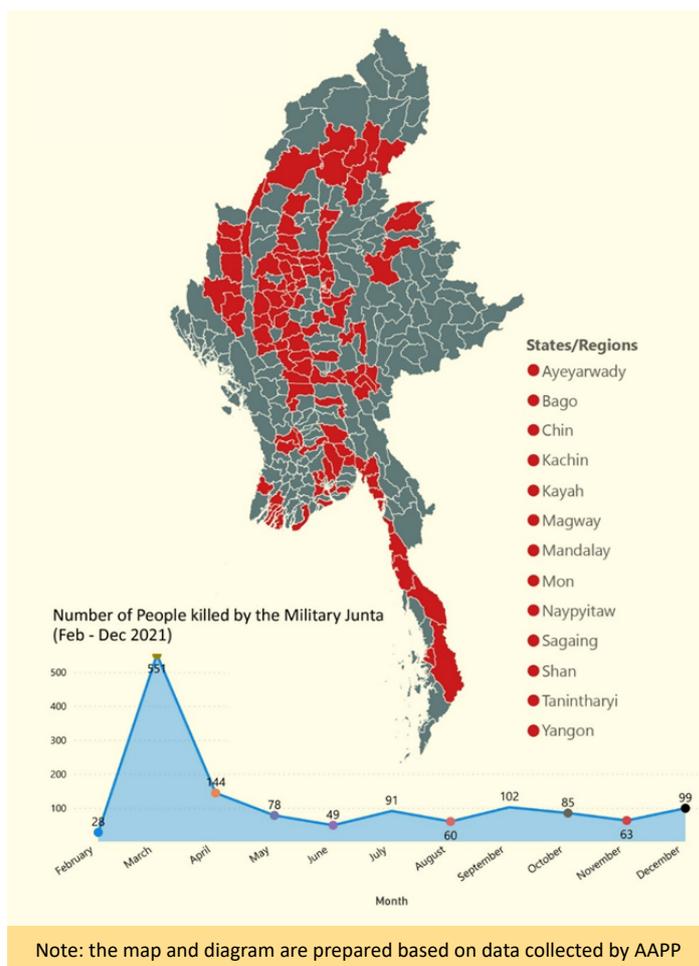


Figure 6: Area where the junta's armed forces committed crimes against humanity and war crimes and frequency by month (Feb-Dec 2021)



ENACTING JUSTICE, ENDING THE CRISIS

Christine Burgener, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Myanmar; Thomas Andrews, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Situation in Myanmar; and Nicholas Koumjian, head of the UN's Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, have reported to various UN bodies including the Security Council about the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Myanmar military junta. But, to this day, the military junta has not been prosecuted. In addition, some members of the international community have argued that such criminals will one day stop the violence and commence dialogue. They are still hoping the junta will completely reverse its mode of operating and engage in a constructive political dialogue.

Due to the lack of effective action from the international community against the junta's longstanding pattern of aggressive behaviour and absence of good will toward a constructive political dialogue, the junta will continue in its violence and oppression against the people's aspirations for human rights and a democratic federal union in Myanmar, under the impunity that has been accorded to the Myanmar military dictators for the last 60 years since the military coup in 1962 (Figure 6).

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT AND UNIVERSAL JURISDICTION

According to the NUG's Acting President Duwa Lashi La, these international criminals should be sent to domestic and international criminal courts. The NUG has submitted a declaration to International Criminal Court (ICC) on 20 August 2021 that mentions the NUG accepts the jurisdiction of the ICC for international crimes committed in Myanmar since 1 July 2008. The NUG is committed to ensuring accountabilities for all human rights abuses and ending impunity.

In order to bring justice to the people of Myanmar, international community and governments should assist them to be able to prosecute the military junta at the ICC or in the courts of countries which adopt principle of universal jurisdiction. The NUG always welcome the military personnel, despite being under the auspices of the Coup d'état, who did not accept the junta's violence, and believed that the military had no reason to be involved in politics other than to protect the country and its people. The constructive political dialogues can be expected from this kind of military personnel.

ACT NOW

The people of Myanmar are being subjected to daily brutal and inhumane treatment by these terrorists almost one year. Therefore, it is time for international community and governments to think about what they can DO to end the crisis, which is not domestic affairs, but becoming regional issue.

International community needs to join with people of Myanmar and their National Unity Government to stop the terrorist junta striving to perpetuate the evil practices of tyranny and oppression on its own people on the world map; it is only way for Myanmar to return to a dignified member of the global family and then bring about sustainable, democratic, and sustainable development in the region.

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Our initial analysis of the available information indicates that crimes committed in the aftermath of the coup are both widespread and systematic in nature.

Under international law, crimes such as killings and arbitrary detentions committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack on a civilian population are **CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY.**

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Message from the Head of
Independent Investigative Mechanism for
Myanmar, Bulletin Issue 5, October 2021

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IT HAS BEEN **350 DAYS**
UNDER THE TERRORIST JUNTA !

NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR WORDS OF CONDEMNATION FOR THE TERRORIST JUNTA AND WORDS OF COMPASSION FOR THE PEOPLE OF MYANMAR. IT'S TIME TO TAKE ACTION AND ASSIST THE PEOPLE OF MYANMAR TO BE ABLE TO BRING THESE CRIMINALS TO JUSTICE.