



## How the UN Is Failing Myanmar: Key Points

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- The Myanmar people have endured **two and half years of atrocities and violence** inflicted on them by the military junta. The violence is escalating, the humanitarian crisis is growing, and **the UN is failing to respond**.
- The UN system has failed Myanmar before and the same cycles of failure are being repeated.
- **The military junta is not the legitimate government of Myanmar.** The National Unity Government (NUG) is the legitimate Government and representative of Myanmar.
- The majority of the population is engaged in active **resistance to the junta**, both peaceful and armed. The resistance rejects every level of the junta-controlled state apparatus and is part of a revolution to uproot and dismantle it entirely.
- **The junta is not the de facto government of Myanmar** as it does not control the territory, it lacks the capacity to govern, and the population has refused to submit to it.
- **There are many de facto entities in Myanmar** contesting territory and administering the functions of local governance and delivering social services.
- UN member States, through the Security Council, General Assembly and Human Rights Council, have **failed to mandate decisive and collective action** to stop the junta's violence and protect the Myanmar people.
- **The Security Council, General Assembly and Human Rights Council do not recognise the junta as the legitimate or de facto government of Myanmar.**
- **The UN Country Team (UNCT) treats the junta as the de facto government** of Myanmar and refers to it as "the de facto authorities", despite this being wrong in law and fact and inconsistent with the position of UN member States.
- The UNCT tries to limit engagement with the junta at senior levels but considers engagement with junta ministries and departments to be non-political and engages as usual. **Details of agreements reached between the UNCT and the junta during formal meetings are withheld from the Myanmar public.** The UNCT effectively shuns the NUG by contrast.





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- The junta has created and maintains Myanmar's humanitarian crisis as a strategy to break the resistance. It restricts the UNCT from accessing resistance areas to deliver aid. **The UNCT subjects itself to the junta's access restrictions and so is unable to reach the majority of people in need.** It is unable to act in a neutral, independent or impartial manner.
- **The junta is not the legitimate or de facto government and so the UNCT does not need its permission to engage with or enter the territory of other de facto entities.** The NUG, resistance authorities and civil society have called for the UN to coordinate directly with them to deliver aid across Myanmar's land borders but there has been little uptake on this from the UNCT.
- Leaked documents reveal the UNCT is signing agreements with the junta worth millions of dollars for junta ministries to lead implementation of development programmes. **Such agreements conflict with the aims and efforts of the democratic resistance and risk weakening the sanctions imposed on the junta by UN member States.**
- The UNCT is not providing development assistance to the resistance authorities that provide essential services to communities and represent their democratic will. Instead, **the UNCT is perceived to be propping up the junta while the junta mobilises its remaining resources against the people.**
- **The UN Secretariat**, led by the Secretary-General, has given little priority to Myanmar, has **not developed a comprehensive and coherent UN-wide strategy on Myanmar**, and consequently has achieved **no results** in supporting a resolution to the crisis.
- **UN member States are failing to act, the UNCT is pursuing the same failed approach of appeasing the military junta despite growing risks and ever-fewer results, and the Secretary-General has neglected his responsibilities to the Myanmar people as head of the UN Secretariat.**

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The Special Advisory Council for Myanmar is a group of independent international experts, who came together in response to the military's attempted coup of February 2021 in Myanmar, to support the peoples of Myanmar in their fight for human rights, peace, democracy, justice and accountability.

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