



Special Advisory Council for MYANMAR

SAC-M Joins Calls for Urgent International Assistance To Myanmar and Thailand Following Devastating Earthquakes

28 March 2025

The Special Advisory Council for Myanmar (SAC-M) joins the National Unity Government and Myanmar civil society in expressing its deep shock at the twin earthquakes that devastated parts of Myanmar and Thailand today. We share the grave fears held for communities in both countries.

As emergency responders work desperately to reach those still trapped, it is impossible to know how many people have been killed and injured. Hospitals and medical centres are overrun. Aftershocks threaten further destruction, which has already seen the collapse of bridges, arterial roads and high-rise buildings.

SAC-M joins calls for neighbours and the international community to urgently deploy emergency aid, rescue teams and equipment to Myanmar and Thailand. We also support the National Unity Government's search and rescue operations and relocation and relief efforts launched with its ethnic and civil society partners.

Myanmar is in a dire situation, where the military junta's four-year war of attrition has plunged a third of the population – 20 million people – into poverty and humanitarian need. Today's earthquakes, with an epicentre near Mandalay, have come at a precarious moment when crippling aid cuts have left vulnerable communities more exposed than ever. This new tragedy is heaped on an underlying catastrophe.

The earthquakes also follow Cyclone Mocha and Typhoon Yagi, recent natural disasters that the junta exploited for military advantage by suspending, obstructing and manipulating humanitarian access.

The junta must immediately cease all military action across the country to enable rescuers and aid to reach communities in need. According to reports, seven people were killed as the junta launched airstrikes in Shan state and other areas of Myanmar that had sustained significant damage, including hardest-hit Sagaing, in the hours following the earthquake. Every indication suggests that the junta will ramp up its bombing campaign against homes, hospitals and IDP camps now filled with civilians forced to relocate. The UN Security Council should therefore urgently convene to adopt a new resolution on Myanmar in follow-up to 2669 that imposes embargoes on the sale, transfer and diversion of arms, munitions and other military equipment to the junta.



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ASEAN, Myanmar's neighbours, the United Nations Country Team, and the international community should also ensure that aid, assistance and equipment is directed to the National Unity Government, ethnic organisations, Myanmar civil society and implementing partners to ensure that it reaches all affected communities. This must make use of established cross-border channels and prioritise worst hit areas.

Furthermore, ASEAN's response should activate and expand on its AHA Centre's mandate by evacuating, assisting and relocating affected communities. Speed and effectiveness are essential to save lives.



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