



Special Advisory Council for MYANMAR

UN Security Council Must Enforce Myanmar Junta Ceasefire and Mandate Urgent Humanitarian Response to Earthquake

4 April 2025

The United Nations (UN) Security Council must urgently impose a compulsory humanitarian ceasefire on the Myanmar military junta and mandate an immediate, large-scale humanitarian response to the unfolding catastrophe in Myanmar following last week's earthquake, says the Special Advisory Council for Myanmar (SAC-M).

The junta's continuing attacks in earthquake-affected areas and its obstruction of relief efforts are an immediate threat to communities already devastated by the most powerful earthquake to strike Myanmar in over a century. They also constitute an immediate threat to international peace and security.

The full extent of the devastation is only just beginning to emerge. At least 3,145 people have died, with the toll expected to rise significantly as the rubble is cleared. Hospitals are overwhelmed and shortages of medical supplies, fuel, clean water and shelter continue to hamper relief operations. Thousands are homeless, with aid organisations fearing outbreaks of disease.

Rather than deploying its considerable military resources to assist the disaster response, the junta has obstructed relief and rescue efforts and continued its offensive military operations. Reports indicate that the junta has used roadblocks and onerous registration requirements to obstruct the flow of urgently needed aid and block access to earthquake-hit areas, including Sagaing, a region largely under resistance control. Aid workers have accused junta troops of seizing supplies and funds intended for the relief effort.

Meanwhile, dozens of junta air and artillery attacks have been reported in earthquake-affected areas, including Magway, Bago and Sagaing Regions and Kachin, Karen, Karenni and Shan States, since the earthquake. The National Unity Government (NUG) and its People's Defence Forces and ethnic armies, including the Three Brotherhood Alliance, declared a unilateral ceasefire almost immediately after the earthquake to facilitate an emergency response. However, junta leader Min Aung Hlaing declared that junta military operations would continue and intensified the bombing and shelling. Four days later the junta announced its own 20-day ceasefire, starting on 2 April, but it violated the ceasefire just hours later by carrying out airstrikes in Sagaing and Kachin.



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Min Aung Hlaing has since left Myanmar to attend the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit in Bangkok on 4-5 April. No sane, responsible leader would abandon a country during a catastrophe of this magnitude. Leaders of BIMSTEC member states who meet with the junta leader are effectively enabling his criminal behaviour and the suffering it has caused.

The junta's attempts to exploit the earthquake disaster to recover lost territory have already cost lives. Urgent international action is needed to ensure that aid is delivered directly to those most in need and to undermine the junta's ability to use violence to inflict further suffering on the people of Myanmar.

The UN Human Rights Council's adoption of a new consensus resolution on Myanmar yesterday provides a strong basis for immediate UN Security Council action. The resolution "calls upon the Myanmar military and other parties to cease all hostilities and facilitate full, rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access to all victims and survivors in all affected regions." The resolution also "calls upon States to...cease the illicit transfer and diversion of arms, munitions and other military equipment to Myanmar."

SAC-M calls on the UN Security Council to convene an urgent meeting to adopt a new resolution on the situation in Myanmar in follow-up to UNSCR2669, adopted in 2022. The new text should expand on the language in the Human Rights Council resolution to:

- Call for an immediate compulsory humanitarian ceasefire in Myanmar and include provisions to enforce the junta's compliance with the ceasefire
- Ban the sale, transfer and diversion of arms, munitions and other military equipment to the junta
- Demand that local and international rescue teams be given full and immediate access to all earthquake-affected areas
- Urge ASEAN, UN entities and the international community to urgently deploy humanitarian aid, medical assistance, heavy equipment and relief and rescue teams by land, air and sea, including through cross-border channels, in conjunction with the NUG, ethnic and civil society organisations capable of reaching communities most in need
- Call for scaled-up financial support to Myanmar to bolster rescue, recovery and reconstruction efforts, support newly displaced communities, and to address the broader humanitarian crisis.

