



**Special Advisory Council for
MYANMAR**

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H.E. Ms. Julie Bishop
Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar
United Nations
New York

31 March 2025

Dear Special Envoy,

The Special Advisory Council for Myanmar (SAC-M) welcomes your call for a full and immediate cessation of offensive military operations across Myanmar.

As you have said, the situation in Myanmar following the twin earthquakes that struck Myanmar and Thailand on 28 March 2025 is even more urgent and disastrous. Thousands of people in Myanmar are feared dead, thousands more remain trapped, hospitals are overrun and out of supplies, and repeated aftershocks threaten further destruction of homes and critical infrastructure. The earthquakes also hit a time of crippling aid cuts, when a third of Myanmar's population – 20 million people – had already been driven into poverty by the military junta's four-year war of attrition.

Consistent with your call, the National Unity Government's People's Defence Forces have implemented an initial two-week pause in offensive military operations in earthquake-affected areas to ensure an all-hands emergency response. The National Unity Government has offered to extend its services to areas controlled by the military junta if security guarantees are provided.

Yet, as you have acknowledged, the junta continues to conduct attacks. According to reports, it has launched air strikes in earthquake-affected areas including Magway and Sagaing Regions and Kachin, Karen, Karenni and Shan States. Emerging reports also claim that the junta is blocking relief efforts in hardest-hit Sagaing, including in areas of the region under National Unity Government control. If confirmed, this would follow an established pattern by the junta of obstructing humanitarian access to disaster-hit areas, as it did after Cyclone Mocha in 2023 and Typhoon Yagi in 2024.

We therefore urge you to push ASEAN, UN entities and the international community to urgently deploy humanitarian aid, medical assistance, heavy equipment and rescue teams by land, air and sea, including through cross-border channels and ethnic and civil society organisations capable of reaching communities most in need. Strong UN coordination is essential, particularly in the absence of a formally-appointed Resident Coordinator in Myanmar.

We have also written to the Secretary-General to ask that he request the Security Council to immediately convene an open meeting on the situation in Myanmar, with updates

to be provided by yourself, Myanmar's Permanent Representative, the UN Special Rapporteur on Myanmar, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, the ASEAN Chair, and representatives of Myanmar civil society and humanitarian organisations.

Furthermore, we have written to the Rt Hon David Lammy MP to press the United Kingdom as penholder to resume efforts to adopt a new Security Council resolution on Myanmar in follow-up to UNSCR 2669 (2022). The draft text that has informed recent consultations should be updated with new language addressing the earthquakes, the broader humanitarian crisis, and the military junta's continued failure to comply with 2669.

SAC-M is grateful for your consideration, Special Envoy. We would value another meeting with you and would be happy to confirm your availability with your Office. We also intend to make this letter public after your receipt.

Sincerely,



Yanghee Lee



Marzuki Darusman



Chris Sidoti