

The October 23rd [bombing](#) of a music festival in Burma's Kachin State has demonstrated once again that Burma's military junta remains unbound by international law and undeterred from its campaign of unfettered violence that has resulted in repeated atrocities against the people of Burma.

Hundreds of civilians gathered in Hpakant that Sunday for an evening of festivities as Kachin musicians celebrated the [62nd anniversary](#) of the founding of the Kachin Independence Organization. This celebration became the target of a horrific attack in which at least 80 people were [killed](#), including the Kachin singer performing on stage, after multiple fighter jets dropped bombs on the peaceful gathering. The junta is reportedly [refusing](#) to allow medical personnel to bring the wounded to nearby hospitals for treatment, with [reports](#) of individuals dying from lack of urgent care - another affront that shows how little the junta cares for civilian lives.

Though this attack was exceedingly horrific, it is far from an isolated incident. [Airstrikes](#) are a core component of the junta's efforts to supplement its increasingly isolated ground forces with a direct campaign against Burmese civilians. Burma's National Unity Government [estimates](#) that the junta has launched over 200 airstrikes since the start of the coup, killing hundreds, destroying dozens of homes, and terrorizing civilians across the country.

In total, post-coup violence has displaced over 1,000,000 people while the junta has [reportedly](#) killed over 2,300 civilians. The junta continues to escalate its indiscriminate attacks on and deliberate targeting of civilians, confident that the international community is too divided and distracted to push back meaningfully against junta's violent excesses.

It is imperative that the international community end this sense of impunity and demonstrate that committing atrocities does have meaningful costs. The United States must respond to this violence with concrete and decisive action. [Condemnations](#) are appreciated, but insufficient as a response to horrors of this magnitude.

For months, activists in Burma have called for international action that would reduce the junta's capacity to commit atrocities, deny the junta access to funding, and begin to hold the military accountable for its crimes. In spite of the clarity of these asks from Burmese political leaders in the National Unity Government, Burmese humanitarian and civil society organizations, and the international advocacy community, **US policy has failed to meet the demands of the current moment.**

We, the undersigned community organizations, NGOs, and those working to promote justice, accountability, and human rights in Burma call on President Biden to decisively take the following actions immediately:

1. **Restrict junta access to funding:** Prevent the junta from receiving the revenues that fund its war of oppression against the people of Burma. Immediately place sanctions on the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and the Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank, the main business entities responsible for supplying the junta with foreign currency.

For Distribution October 31st

2. **Restrict junta access to jet fuel:** Without jet fuel, the junta cannot conduct airstrikes or transport soldiers to remote villages to terrorize local populations. Place sanctions on all companies involved in the provision of jet fuel to Burma's military and work with international partners, and in particular Singapore, to control the shipment of jet fuel into Burma.
3. **Restrict junta access to arms:** The US should push for the tabling of a UN Security Council Resolution that would place a comprehensive and coordinated arms embargo on the junta. The US should also directly sanction companies involved in the supply of arms and dual-use technologies to the junta.
4. **Address junta impunity:** Join the Rohingya case at the International Court of Justice and commit to further supporting investigations into junta atrocities at other international fora.

In addition to these immediate actions we urge the Biden Administration to continue to increase its political and material support to opponents of the junta, especially the National Unity Government (NUG), the National Unity Consultative Council, and representatives of the Ethnic Resistance Organizations (EROs). The US should urge ASEAN to engage directly with the NUG and EROs, including by accepting representatives from the NUG as Burma's representative at ASEAN meetings and forums.

The US should also work with partners to ensure that humanitarian aid is provided in a way that does not grant legitimacy to the junta, including by providing aid through the NUG and Burmese humanitarian organizations that are unaffiliated with the junta.

The military junta continues to escalate its campaign of depraved violence even as the people of Burma risk their lives to oppose the junta's brutality and expose its crimes. The people of Burma deserve your full support, and failure to act will simply encourage the junta to continue escalating its attacks on civilians. The US response must rise to meet the moment.

Signed,