



# Students for Free Burma

## OFFICIAL MEMO

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### SITUATION UPDATE: February 21, 2023

#### Political Development

- On February 17, 2023, the National Unity Government (NUG) [urged](#) the United States to impose more targeted sanctions against the military junta and increase funding for pro-democracy resistance forces.
- On February 15, 2023, Myanmar's junta-controlled supreme court [rejected](#) former State Counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's appeal for two corruption charges against her. The appeal failed despite the efforts of her lawyers and testimony.
- As of February 15, 2023, four political parties including the USDP, FPD, MPD, and UDP have [re-registered](#) for the upcoming elections. Other parties close to the junta are also expected to re-registered to contest in the election.

#### Situation on the Ground

- As of February 20, 2023, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) [reported](#) that 3,018 individuals have been killed. AAPP also reported that 19,768 individuals have been arrested and 15,911 individuals are still detained by the Burmese military since the coup.
- UN estimated that [more than 1.25 million people](#) have been internally displaced since the coup.
- Junta and its forces have [burned down more than 55,000 homes](#) across Burma in the two years since the coup. The majority of these attacks were in [Sagaing Region](#).
- Leaked junta documents revealed that pro-junta civilians will be [allowed to carry firearms](#).
- Since the coup, illegal mining operations have [increased](#) in Kachin State with residents reporting the expansion of these operations in different villages.

#### International Response

- On February 20, 2023, the EU [imposed sanctions](#) on nine individuals and seven entities involved in arms dealing, jet fuel provision, and repression of civilians.
- On February 17, 2023, an Australian Senator, [criticized](#) the Australian government for co-hosting a forum in March with ASEAN where junta representatives are expected to participate. Michelle Chan, the forum representative, stated that it was not Australia's position to decide who attends.
- On February 15, 2023, the US State Department [expressed concern](#) for Russia's continued nuclear cooperation with the junta, following an agreement for cooperation between the two parties on February 06.
- On February 15, 2023, the US [announced](#) that it will provide an additional \$50 million in humanitarian assistance for Burma. The USAID is leading the initiative and will cooperate with the UNWFP to provide emergency food and nutrition assistance.