



Situation Room

**** COUP D'ETAT IN MYANMAR ****

Period under review: from 20 February 2021 to 22 February 2021.

[This report is based on publicly available sources to describe a changing situation. Information subject to change.]

Key events prior to February 2021:

- In August 2017, a deadly crackdown by Myanmar's military on Rohingya Muslims sent hundreds of thousands fleeing across the border into Bangladesh.
- In November 2019, The Gambia, on behalf of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), filed the first international lawsuit against Myanmar in the International Court of Justice and accused the country of violating UN conventions on genocide.
- In January 2020, the Court unanimously ruled that Myanmar must take urgent measures to protect the population
- Aung San Suu Kyi, the de facto Prime Minister of Myanmar and a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, denied the accusations of ethnic cleansing and rejected international criticism of the military's handling of the crisis.
- Australia, Canada and the European Union have imposed sanctions on military leaders. Meanwhile, many countries, including the United States, Canada, Norway and South Korea, have increased their humanitarian aid.
- 1 February 2021, Myanmar's military declared the October 2020 parliamentary elections invalid and took control in a coup d'état. Aung San Suu Kyi and Win Myint, the President of Myanmar, have been detained. The coup has been followed by public protests.

Situation analysis recap:

- On 20 February, ethnic minorities joined other protesters to show the opposition to the coup.
- Protesters mourned a death of a 20-year-old girl who has been critically wounded by live ammunition fired by the police. Myanmar military regime denies responsibility.
- Two more people were reported dead in the city of Mandalay when police tried to disperse the crowd of protesters with lethal weapons.
- On 21 February, Facebook removed the page run by the Myanmar armed forces, citing violations against their Community Standards which prohibit incitement of violence and coordinating harm.
- The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners reported on the 640 people who have been arrested since February 1.
- Foreign ministers of the EU member states are scheduled to meet on February 22 in order to discuss proposals for sanctions, among other topics.
- On 22 February, China urged the U.S. and its allies in the region not to interfere in Myanmar's domestic affairs. China is viewed as supportive of Myanmar's military regime since it has not condemned the coup. What is more, they have blocked recent efforts, alongside Russia, of the UN Security Council to do so. China is Myanmar's largest trading partner and distancing Myanmar from China with perceived Western interference could cause harm to the partnership.

Si želite izvedeti več? Vas zanima področje mednarodne varnosti? Pridružite se nam.

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Sources/Further Reading:

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