



## Situation Room

### **\*\* COUP D'ETAT IN MYANMAR \*\***

**Period under review: from 23 February 2021 to 26 February 2021.**

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

### **Situation analysis recap:**

- The protests continued this week, but with fewer supporters. Over 20 people have been arrested. On 23 February, the coup was also condemned by the G7 countries.
- Due to good neighbourly and trade relations with Myanmar, India is currently very reticent and does not comment on the condemnation of the coup.
- The Malaysian Department of Immigration says it has implemented a repatriation program involving 1,086 Myanmar citizens, despite a previous court order suspending deportation.
- Indonesia has taken a leading role within ASEAN in an effort to resolve the crisis. Activists in Myanmar fear that this could lead to the legitimisation of the current government.
- The previous military regime held elections in 1990 and 2010 however, the results were not taken into account. This brings into question the legitimacy of any possible future elections organised by the current regime.
- The Chinese Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, said that Beijing supports ASEAN's efforts to resolve the situation in Myanmar.
- ASEAN has supported military regimes in the past, so it is doubtful that it would side with the protesters and the opponents of the regime on this occasion.
- Meanwhile, on 25 February, pro-regime individuals in the capital attacked protesters with knives and sticks. In response, Facebook blocked accounts associated with such incidents.
- On 26 February, the United Kingdom sanctioned six more leaders of the Myanmar coup for serious human rights abuses.

### **Sources/Further Reading:**

*G7 countries condemn Myanmar crackdown on protesters. (23. February 2021). Deutsche Welle. Available at: <https://www.dw.com/en/g7-countries-condemn-myanmar-crackdown-on-protesters/a-56660189>*

*India's Muted Response to Myanmar Military Coup Seen as a Strategic Move. (23. February 2021). The Irrawaddy. Available at: <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/20-people-arrested-security-forces-break-22222-protest-myanmars-capital.html>*

*Neighbours' efforts to help end Myanmar crisis raise suspicion among protesters. (24. February 2021). Reuters. Available at: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-politics/neighbours-efforts-to-help-end-myanmar-crisis-raise-suspicion-among-protesters-idUSKBN2AO05E?rpc=401&>*

*Myanmar coup latest: Military supporters confront residents in Yangon. (25 February 2021). Nikkei Asia. Available at: <https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Myanmar-Coup/Myanmar-coup-latest-Military-supporters-confront-residents-in-Yangon>*

*Myanmar police fire into air to disperse protests as lawyer to Suu Kyi says access denied. (26. February 2021). Reuters. Available at: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-politics/myanmar-riot-police-fire-to-break-up-protests-idUSKBN2AQ08U?rpc=401&>*

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