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Dr John Chisholm & Dr Kitty Mohan
British Medical Association
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24 June 2021

Dear Dr John Chisholm and Dr Kitty Mohan,

Thank you for your correspondence of 1 April about Myanmar health care professionals. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delayed response.

The UK Government condemns the military coup in Myanmar, the violence against the people of Myanmar and the detention of members of the civilian government and civil society, including State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and President Win Myint. The UK is a champion of the rules based international order and democratic governance.

We are calling for: an end to the coup; revocation of the state of emergency; the immediate release of all those arbitrarily detained; unobstructed humanitarian access; the protection of rights and freedoms; the peaceful reconvening of the elected National Assembly; and respect for the results of the 2020 Election.

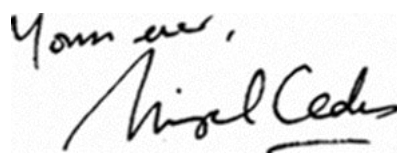
We share your deep concern about the events unfolding in Myanmar and are monitoring the current situation closely. We applaud the Myanmar health professionals risking their lives to continue to treat their patients at this difficult time. We are deeply concerned by the appalling violence inflicted on the people of Myanmar by the Myanmar Security Forces, including against healthcare workers. With our G7 partners on 5 May, we called on the military junta to respect the safety of medical facilities and staff and to release all those arbitrarily detained, including medical staff. Our thoughts go out to all those who have been killed and injured whilst protesting for democracy.

The UK has been at the forefront of the international response. On 29 April, the UK introduced new sanctions regulations to ensure we could better target the military and its interests. On 17 May, the UK imposed sanctions on Myanmar Gems Enterprise, and on 21 June we imposed sanctions on Myanmar Pearl Enterprise and Myanmar Timber Enterprise. These State-Owned Enterprises in the extractive sector are a key source of revenue for the military. On 21 June we also imposed sanctions on the State Administration Council, the junta's ruling body, to send a clear message to the regime that we oppose the coup. We have also sanctioned Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd (MEHL) and Myanmar Economic Corporation (MEC), the two largest military conglomerates. These sanctions directly target the military's financial interests. In February, immediately after the coup, we sanctioned nine senior military individuals, including the Commander in Chief, for their role in serious human rights violations during the coup. Individual sanctions have sent a strong political message in opposition to the coup and undermined the credibility of the State Administration Council (SAC). Sanctions on entities have made it clear that we are targeting the military's funding streams and that we are in solidarity with the domestic boycott movement. This is having a real impact on military businesses. The UK will consider all tools at its disposal, including further sanctions targeted against those responsible for undermining democracy and repressing the civilian population. We are working closely with partners on further targeted and coordinated action to ensure the military is held to account.

Alongside this, the UK has led a strong, coordinated international response, through our G7 Presidency and our leadership role on Myanmar at the UN Security Council. On 10 March, the UK secured a Presidential Statement at the UN Security Council that condemned the violence against peaceful protestors. On 12 February and 24 March, we secured strong consensus resolutions at the UN Human Rights Council. We secured G7 statements on 3 and 23 February, as well as a strong statement on Myanmar on 5 May, in the G7 Foreign and Development Minister's communiqué. This included a commitment by all members of the G7 to prevent the supply of arms and technical assistance to the Tatmadaw. We have met the United Nations Special Envoy to Myanmar and the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in Myanmar to discuss the situation and ensure a coordinated and impactful international response.

The UK is also engaging with a range of partners globally and in the region. The Foreign Secretary and I have spoken to a wide range of counterparts, including the US, France, Germany, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. We have also engaged with partners in ASEAN, including with the ASEAN Secretary General, to seek a strong and coordinated response. We welcome ASEAN's recent Five Point plan, and strongly agree on the need for dialogue and an end to the violence. The military must implement it without delay.

We will continue to use all the tools at our disposal to encourage dialogue, find a peaceful resolution to the crisis, and restore democracy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yours ever, Nigel Adams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name "Adams".

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