

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 348

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United Nations Security Council should immediately impose an arms embargo against the military of Burma.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 22, 2021

Ms. TENNEY (for herself, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. KIM of California, Ms. JACOBS of California, Ms. TITUS, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. MELJER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United Nations Security Council should immediately impose an arms embargo against the military of Burma.

Whereas the military of Burma (also referred to as the “Tatmadaw”) conducted a coup against the democratically elected civilian government on February 1, 2021;

Whereas, on February 2, 2021, the Department of State concluded that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of Burma’s ruling party, and President Win Myint, the duly elected head of government, were deposed in a military coup on February 1, 2021;

Whereas the Tatmadaw has detained the elected civilian leaders of the country, nullified the results of the November 2020 democratic elections, and installed a junta, the State Administration Council, under a “state of emergency”;

Whereas the Tatmadaw has restricted freedom of movement, telecommunications, internet service, and the media, limiting access to information to and from Burma during a political crisis and international pandemic;

Whereas protests opposing the coup have continued across Burma, and hundreds of innocent people have died at the hands of the Tatmadaw through the brutal use of force;

Whereas the United States has sanctioned Tatmadaw officials, including Commander in Chief Min Aung Hlaing and Burma’s chief of police, Than Hlaing, and Bureau of Special Operations commander, Lieutenant General Aung Soe;

Whereas the United States has also designated two entities linked to the coup leaders, Myanmar Economic Holdings Public Company Limited (MEHL) and Myanmar Economic Corporation Limited (MEC);

Whereas, on April 13, 2021, the United Nation’s High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said, “There are clear echoes of Syria in 2011.” in the current situation in Burma, and warned, “I fear the situation in Myanmar is heading towards a full-blown conflict. States must not allow the deadly mistakes of the past in Syria and elsewhere to be repeated.”; and

Whereas, on February 3, 2021, United Nations Secretary General António Guterres stated, “We will do everything we can to mobilize all the key actors and international

community to put enough pressure on Myanmar to make sure that this coup fails.”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 representatives that—

3 (1) the United Nations Security Council should
4 immediately impose an arms embargo against the
5 military of Burma to prevent the continued acquisi-
6 tion of arms and military equipment and the pro-
7 liferation of weapons throughout the country, and to
8 hold the Tatmadaw accountable for—

9 (A) ongoing violations of human rights and
10 the security forces’ history of grave abuses
11 against peaceful protestors of military rule and
12 against the Rohingya and other ethnic minority
13 groups;

14 (B) obstructing humanitarian access to ci-
15 vilian populations in dire need of assistance;

16 (C) using increasingly lethal force against
17 peaceful, prodemocracy demonstrators; and

18 (D) threatening and arbitrarily detaining
19 government officials, activists, journalists, stu-
20 dents, and civil servants, and imposing rolling
21 internet shutdowns that put lives at risk;

22 (2) the lifting of a United Nations arms embar-
23 go should be contingent upon the Tatmadaw—

24 (A) implementing a permanent cease-fire;

1 (B) releasing the democratically elected
2 government leaders from imprisonment;

3 (C) bearing the primary responsibility for
4 gross human rights abuses and forced displace-
5 ment perpetrated by the Tatmadaw's violent
6 rule, including but not limited to the Rohingya,
7 Karen, Rakhine, and Kachin ethnic minorities;

8 (D) allowing for consistent, unimpeded hu-
9 manitarian access to vulnerable civilian popu-
10 lations;

11 (E) fully restoring internet and tele-
12 communications access within the country of
13 Burma; and

14 (F) establishing a clear and verifiable proc-
15 ess to immediately transition power back to a
16 democratically elected civilian-led government;
17 and

18 (3) the international community should con-
19 tinue to support civilians, particularly ethnic minori-
20 ties, who have been adversely affected by the coup
21 in Burma and should promote peace and reconcili-
22 ation dialogues within local civil society.

○