



New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists and Australian Society of Anaesthetists Joint statement on the crisis in Myanmar

June 2021

The 1 February coup d'état in Myanmar demands a response from members of civil society, organisations and institutions in New Zealand, Australia and around the world.

It is only by sustained collective outrage coupled with effective political action and economic sanctions from countries outside Myanmar, that the people of Myanmar can have any hope of reclaiming their democratic freedoms. The courageous defiance and the protestors' deaths and suffering call for nothing less than this.

The New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists (NZSA) and the Australian Society of Anaesthetists (ASA) strongly support our friends, medical colleagues, and the people of Myanmar in the struggle to restore democracy to their country.

We condemn the use of lethal force and violence against civilians exercising their universal rights, including the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Members of the ASA and the NZSA have been involved in capacity building and medical development in Myanmar for the past ten years. There is much to be lost without speedy resolution of the ongoing conflict. Many lives and better health determinants are at stake.

Members of the Myanmar Medical community have been involved in the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) and as a result they have been targeted with brutal reprisals by the military. The UN Security Council Resolution 2286 adopted in May 2016 condemns attacks against medical facilities and personnel in conflict situations. The full weight of International Law and sanctions should be brought to bear on the Military Junta for their current actions.

The NZSA and the ASA stand in solidarity with our medical and nursing colleagues in Myanmar as they endeavour to deliver essential emergency care to their people whilst demanding justice, peace and the return to democracy in their country.

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President NZSA

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