

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 35

Condemning the military coup that took place on February 1, 2021, in Burma and the Burmese military's detention of civilian leaders, calling for an immediate and unconditional release of all those detained and for those elected to serve in parliament to resume their duties without impediment, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 4, 2021

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Condemning the military coup that took place on February 1, 2021, in Burma and the Burmese military's detention of civilian leaders, calling for an immediate and unconditional release of all those detained and for those elected to serve in parliament to resume their duties without impediment, and for other purposes.

Whereas Burma held general elections on November 8, 2020, that resulted in the National League for Democracy party securing enough seats to form the next government, which was set to convene on February 2, 2021;

Whereas, on January 28, 2021, the Union Election Commission rejected allegations by the military of Burma (the

“Tatmadaw”) that fraud played a significant role in determining the outcome of the November 2020 elections;

Whereas, on February 1, 2021, the Tatmadaw and its aligned Union Solidarity and Development Party (“USDP”) conducted a military coup against the civilian government, resulting in the military illegally detaining State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, President Win Myint, and members of Parliament, as well as pro-democracy activists from the 88 Generation and other civil society leaders;

Whereas the Tatmadaw restricted freedom of movement, telecommunications, and the media, limiting access to information to and from Burma during a political and public health crisis; and

Whereas senior generals of the Tatmadaw have been sanctioned by the United States Government for perpetrating gross human rights violations and are subject to ongoing investigations into their conduct by the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) stands with the people of Burma in their
3 ambition for a genuine democracy, sustainable peace
4 and genuine ethnic reconciliation, and the realization
5 of fundamental human rights for all;

6 (2) calls on the Tatmadaw to—

7 (A) immediately and unconditionally re-
8 lease all those detained as a result of the mili-
9 tary coup on February 1, 2021;

1 (B) immediately restore all forms of com-
2 munications, including access to the internet;

3 (C) remove all impediments to free travel
4 that have been imposed as a result of the coup,
5 separate from legitimate travel limits as a re-
6 sult of the COVID–19 pandemic;

7 (D) return to power all members of the ci-
8 vilian government elected in the November 8,
9 2020, elections and allow them to fulfill their
10 mandate without impediment;

11 (E) allow for freedom of expression, includ-
12 ing the right to protest, press freedom, and
13 freedom of movement; and

14 (F) allow unfettered reporting from local,
15 national, and international media;

16 (3) calls on social media companies, in par-
17 ticular Facebook, to suspend the accounts of USDP
18 and Tatmadaw military leaders that have used their
19 platforms to spread disinformation, fear, and psy-
20 chological violence;

21 (4) supports the use of all diplomatic and devel-
22 opment tools to ensure that in conflict contexts vul-
23 nerable groups, including ethnic and religious mi-
24 norities, as well as all children, youth, and teachers
25 in educational settings are safe, and schools and uni-

1 versities are not targeted for attacks or use by the
2 military; and

3 (5) calls on the President, the Secretary of
4 State, and the Secretary of Defense to immediately
5 take all steps necessary under the coup designation
6 and to—

7 (A) reinstate and impose new targeted re-
8 strictions aimed at the Tatmadaw, military-
9 owned or controlled enterprises, and those re-
10 sponsible for the February 1, 2021, coup;

11 (B) work with the international commu-
12 nity, including at the United Nations Security
13 Council, with United States allies in the region,
14 and with the Association of Southeast Asian
15 Nations, to forcefully condemn the coup and
16 enact multilateral, targeted sanctions on the
17 military, military owned businesses, military
18 partners' business interests, and others con-
19 nected to the coup;

20 (C) enact conditionality on diplomatic, eco-
21 nomic, and security relations with Burma, in-
22 cluding using the voice and vote of the United
23 States at multilateral development institutions,
24 until all those detained in the February 1,
25 2021, coup are released and there has been a

1 full restoration of civilian-controlled parliament
2 respecting the November 8, 2020, election re-
3 sults; and

4 (D) utilize the United States Government's
5 position on the United Nations Security Council
6 to bring about greater international cooperation
7 in the pursuit of justice and accountability in
8 Burma.

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