



12th Feb, 2021

Mr. Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Government of Japan

Satoko Fujitani, President,
Yumiko Ozaki, General Secretary,
YWCA of Japan

Letter of request to speak out against military coup in Myanmar

We, the YWCA of Japan, as an organization striving for a just and peaceful world together with our sisters around the world, and as a part of the global YWCA movement that works in more than 100 countries and regions including our sister YWCAs in Asia, are deeply concerned about the military coup that took place in Myanmar on 1st February and the subsequent situation.

The military coup is a seizure of power against the will of the people clearly expressed through democratic elections, and is a serious violation of human rights of the people of Myanmar. There have also been reports of restrictions on communications and media, and police violence against citizens protesting in the streets.

We strongly urge the Japanese government to clearly communicate to the Myanmar authorities that it will not tolerate a military coup. We urge the Japanese government to make a strong request that those who are illegally detained be immediately released, the outcomes of the election be respected, democratic social systems be promptly restored, and that the "state of emergency" that violates the human rights and daily lives of citizens be lifted without delay.

We also strongly call for the protection of the human rights of the people of Myanmar who are in Japan as residents and refugees in order to support the people of Myanmar, in accordance with international human rights standards.

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