

International Human Rights Section of the Association of American Law Schools
Statement of Support for Rule of Law in Myanmar

May 17, 2021

One hundred days after a military coup that has led to junta rule in Myanmar, we continue to be alarmed by reports that government security forces continue to killed civilians, including children, and detain thousands of peaceful protesters. The brutal crackdown by the military junta undermines rule of law and impedes the country's democratic transition.

The International Human Rights Section of the Association of American Law Schools stands with human rights defenders and democracy advocates in Myanmar. We urge the military junta to end the killing, arrest, detention, and harassment of civilians as they rightfully protest the overthrow of Myanmar's democratically-elected government.

As lawyers and law professors, we are deeply concerned by the irregular enactment of new laws by the military junta that curtail or suspend human rights. We condemn the authorization of martial law and the use of military courts to prosecute people seized during the military junta's deadly campaign against citizens exercising their rights and freedoms under international, national, and natural law. The use of military courts to prosecute protesters, journalists, lawyers, and other civilians abolishes appellate review for convictions and sanctions capital punishment. We denounce Martial Law Order 3/2021 and new amendments to Penal Code 1860 (sec. 124A) that criminalize any protest against the government. Respect for international human rights and the rule of law demands a return to democracy and an end to the killing of civilians and criminal prosecutions of peaceful protesters.

*The above statement is made on behalf of only the International Human Rights Section
of the Association of American Law Schools.*