



WrightMUN

High School Model UN Background Guide

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Security Council Background Guide

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Topic: The Situation in Myanmar

Message from the Director of the Security Council

Delegates,

It is my honor to welcome you to this year's WrightMUN Conference. My name is Murphy Van Balen and I look forward to seeing the work this Security Council (SC) puts forth throughout the course of this conference. The SC is the only committee within the greater United Nations (UN) with a sole focus on the maintenance of international peace and security. Each delegate will represent one of the 15 Member States that comprise the SC and each will hold one (1) vote. The affirmative vote of 9 of those 15 members is needed to pass a resolution. Additionally, five delegates representing one of the Permanent Five (P5) – the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, China, and France – possess veto power. This occurs during the voting procedure where a single negative vote from any of the P5 delegates on a draft resolution will result in a failure to pass and the draft resolution will not be adopted into a resolution.

All Member States are obligated to comply with the decisions made by the SC. The SC will call on the parties involved in any issue to settle any threat to international stability through peaceful means and will recommend methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. While the SC will attempt to solve crisis through peaceful and diplomatic means, the SC also possesses the power, under Article 42 of the UN Charter, to authorize coercive measures – which include sanctions or authorizing the use of force – to maintain or restore global peace and security.

This background guide is intended to offer delegates a starting point for their research on the ongoing crisis surrounding the civil war in Myanmar. Delegates are encouraged to broaden their research on the topic to the greater context of the situation and to their Member State's policies. The background guide provides the necessary information to begin a deeper dive into the topic and will provide delegates with the necessary tools to cooperate with other delegates in the committee.

As a reminder, please have fun during your time at WrightMUN. The staff are here to support you to provide you with any guidance you may experience. While there will be awards, this is ultimately a learning experience. I highly encourage you to take advantage of the committee staff to ask any questions you may have and to help make the most of your time working alongside your fellow delegates.

Sincerely,

Murphy Van Balen
Director, Security Council

Topic: The Situation in Myanmar

Introduction

The current ongoing conflict within Myanmar started following a military coup in February 2021 led by Min Aung Hlaing and the State Administration Council on the basis of suspected election fraud.¹ This coup would lead to over 3.5 million internally displaced persons by the end of 2024 and has resulted in one of the most severe humanitarian crises in modern times.² It led to the formation of several distinct anti-coup militias that would be a major factor in the escalation of the conflict. Several ethnic militias also have formed: the Three Brotherhood Alliance comprised of the Arakan Army (AA), the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), Kachin Independence Army (KIA), and Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA).³ These ethnic militias focus their attention on opposing the junta and aim to minimize the control the military could hold over designated regions of Myanmar.

A distinct turn in the resistant efforts would come in October 2023, when the Three Brotherhood Alliance launched Operation 1027 – which would go on to capture over 50 towns, military strongholds, and outposts in order to weaken the influence of the junta in key regions essential to the conflict.⁴ While this weakened the junta, it brought into the fold another key issue. Though Operation 1027 is generally thought of a success for the ethnic militias, it was less than coordinated on the battlefield and went to highlight that all of the ethnic militias participating has individual personal goals and a distinct vision for how to shape Myanmar's future.⁵

The armed conflict between the junta and these militias has led to a rapid increase of ethnic tensions throughout Myanmar. These are most prevalent in the Rakhine State with the Rohingya Muslim population. As of October 2025, over 350,000 Rohingya have become displaced since the end of the ceasefire in November 2023.⁶ The Rakhine State has also seen a major rise in dangerous sea crossing attempts by the Muslim community into Bangladesh. As of January 2026, roughly 5,600 Rohingya people have departed on these dangerous crossings with a reported number of nearly 900 either missing or dead.⁷ Additionally, the people of

¹ Amnesty International. 2023. "Everything You Need to Know about Human Rights in Myanmar 2020." Amnesty International. 2023. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/asia-and-the-pacific/south-east-asia-and-the-pacific/myanmar/report-myanmar/>.

² "Myanmar Emergency | UNHCR US." 2025. UNHCR US. 2025. <https://www.unhcr.org/us/emergencies/myanmar-emergency>.

³ "The Changing Role of the Three Brotherhood Alliance – Human Development Forum Foundation." 2025. Hdff.org. 2025. <https://hdff.org/the-changing-role-of-the-three-brotherhood-alliance/>.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ A/HRC/60/20

⁷ "Situation Myanmar Situation." 2021. Unhcr.org. 2021. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/myanmar#powerbi>.

Rohingya have been stripped of their right to citizenship, face severe limitations on movement to other states, and receive significantly smaller access to education and health services.⁸

In addition to this coup and the ongoing ethnic issues, Myanmar has been plagued with climate issues and natural disasters which have led to a further deterioration of living conditions for the Burmese people. Most recently, a 2025 earthquake left two million people facing food insecurity and damaged – or destroyed – tens of thousands of houses, roughly 70 health facilities, and disrupted access to essential services – medical and personal – for millions of people.⁹ This earthquake has so far led to over 3,500 confirmed fatalities.¹⁰ Natural disasters have increased levels of humanitarian aid needs; however, this has also opened the door for looting incidents primarily by junta soldiers.¹¹

As a result of the coup and the subsequent fighting, the distinct suppression of political participation has led to increased difficulty in moving towards a stable, central government. As of August 2025, more than 29,000 arrests have been made on political grounds with over 22,000 remaining in detention facilities without fair and judicial trails.¹²

Background

Prior to the 2021 coup, Myanmar's government consisted of a semi-democratic civilian led government with a military backing. Representatives were elected at both the national and regional levels into a representative parliamentary government. Elections are held through 2 votes. The first vote working in a first-past-the-post system to fill the upper and lower parliaments of the national government. It should be noted that roughly a quarter of all seats for these parliaments were reserved for military appointees. The second vote would then be to elect the president and two vice presidents – however – this would not occur until after the new parliament was selected and convened.¹³

In 2025, elections were to resume during the ongoing conflict, however, they seemingly lack the freedom to fully express their opinions given the widespread national violence. With the enactment of an election protection law, dozens of individuals in Myanmar have been arrested

⁸ Rattray, Courtenay. 2025. Review of *Secretary-General's Remarks at the UN High-Level Conference on the Situation of Human Rights of Rohingya and Other Minorities in Myanmar*. Edited by United Nations. September 30.

⁹ OCHA. 2025. "Myanmar." OCHA. <https://www.unocha.org/myanmar>.

¹⁰ "UN Expert Calls for Emergency Security Council Action to Address Ceasefire Violations after Devastating Myanmar Earthquake." 2025. OHCHR. 2025. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/04/un-expert-calls-emergency-security-council-action-address-ceasefire>.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² "Myanmar: Death, Destruction and Desperation Mirror 2017 Atrocities – UN Report." 2017. OHCHR. 2017. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/09/myanmar-death-destruction-and-desperation-mirror-2017-atrocities-un-report>.

¹³ "Myanmar: Mechanics of the Elections." 2016. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. 2016. <https://carnegieendowment.org/posts/2015/09/myanmar-mechanics-of-the-elections?lang=en>.

for speaking out against the government or election process.¹⁴ In addition, armed groups have threatened those travelling to both vote and hold elections and have bombed local administration offices in several states within Myanmar.¹⁵

Role of the International System

The conflict within Myanmar has vastly gone under the radar of the international system, however, as the number of refugees continue to rise and the risk of spillover increases, more international states are taking note. As aforementioned, over the mass exodus of Rohingya people from the Rakhine State to Bangladesh has certainly involved this nation. In addition to Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand, India, Indonesia, and other regional Member States have welcomed an estimated 1,596,600 refugees and asylum seekers as of December 2025.¹⁶

Several international organizations have contributed to the humanitarian aid need of Myanmar. As of January 2026, the European Commission donated a total \$15.9 million and the Government of the Republic of South Korea had donated \$11.7 million.¹⁷ As of September 2025, the UN response plan for Myanmar noted that of the necessary funds to provide humanitarian aid to all those in need is only 22% funded.¹⁸

Several regional and international actors have worked to minimize the effects of the war on the people of Myanmar. The People's Republic of China brokered a ceasefire in January 2025, between the junta and the several of the ethnic militias – however – following the attack on a convey by the Red Cross Society of China and several city aerial attacks in April 2025, the ceasefire has since ended.¹⁹ Other international organizations include the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) which has signed a Five Point Consensus on ending the war in Myanmar.²⁰ This, in congruence with Security Council Resolution 2669 (2022), has called for a peaceful solution and an immediate end to the violence in Myanmar by all parties.²¹

¹⁴ "Myanmar: Türk Warns against Violence and Intimidation ahead of Military-Controlled Vote." 2025. OHCHR. 2025. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/12/myanmar-turk-warns-against-violence-and-intimidation-ahead-military>.

¹⁵ "Myanmar Elections Marked by Fear as UN Warns Civilians Are Coerced from All Sides." 2025. UN News. December 23, 2025. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/12/1166662>.

¹⁶ "Situation Myanmar Situation." 2021. Unhcr.org. 2021. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/myanmar#powerbi>.

¹⁷ OCHA. 2018. "Myanmar." OCHA. January 30, 2018. <https://www.unocha.org/myanmar>.

¹⁸ "Wars, Disasters, Displacement, Hunger' Continue to Burden Myanmar." 2025. UN News. September 11, 2025. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/09/1165826>.

¹⁹ "UN Expert Calls for Emergency Security Council Action to Address Ceasefire Violations after Devastating Myanmar Earthquake." 2025. OHCHR. 2025. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/04/un-expert-calls-emergency-security-council-action-address-ceasefire>.

²⁰ "Myanmar: UN Expert Urges ASEAN Not to Step Backward by Recognising Junta's 'Sham Elections' at Its 47th Summit." 2025. OHCHR. 2025. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/10/myanmar-un-expert-urges-asean-not-step-backward-recognising-juntas-sham>.

²¹ S/RES/2669 (2022)

Human Rights Violations

As the civil war in Myanmar continues to escalate, the risk of human rights violations within the conflict zone has increased. Following the junta's airstrikes in 2023, the UNHCR reported an increase of looting within civilian properties that were then burned by the departing soldiers.²² Additionally, during the same aftermath, junta soldiers were reported to immolate survivors of the airstrikes, set fire to designated food storage facilities, and burning cattle.²³ These such airstrikes targeting civilians and civilian structures continued to be attacked through 2024 and 2025 in increasing numbers. Between March and May of 2025 alone, OHCHR reported over 108 total airstrikes with the estimated death of at least 89 people.²⁴

Additionally, the GA and SC have continued to notate the grave human rights violations committed against the population of Myanmar taking a specific interest in the violations against children. Within A/78/842 – S/2024/384, the United Nations verified over 2,000 grave violations against children within Myanmar.²⁵ These violations include – but are not limited to – forced recruitment by the Myanmar armed forces, attacks on schools and hospitals, as well as direct killings.²⁶

Addressing the Humanitarian Crisis in Myanmar

As of 2023, more than 1.6 million people with Myanmar have become internally displaced and more the 55,000 civilian buildings were destroyed directly following the coup.²⁷ Thus, leading to one of the biggest present humanitarian crises within the world today. As of 2024, more than 22 million people within Myanmar were in need of some level of humanitarian aid with a requirement of over \$1.4 billion USD to provide the necessary aid to the effected populations.²⁸ The Rakhine, Sagaing, Mandalay, and Yangon States being disproportionately more effected than other regions within Myanmar.²⁹

Conclusion

The situation in Myanmar is a continuously escalating situation as the junta and the ethnic militias continue to battle over strongholds within several states. With millions of citizens becoming internally displaced, civilian infrastructure being targeted, and the distinct human rights violations, the situation in Myanmar has become a major geopolitical issue leading to

²² Myanmar, Ohchr. n.d. "Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar." <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/myanmar-factsheet.pdf>.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ "UN Decries Deadly Myanmar Airstrike, amid Mounting Military Attacks on Civilians." 2025. UN News. October 8, 2025. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/10/1166062>.

²⁵ "General Assembly Security Council Children and Armed Conflict." n.d. <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/095/07/pdf/n2409507.pdf>.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ United Nations. 2023. "More than Two Years On, Impact of Myanmar Military Coup 'Devastating' | UN News." News.un.org. March 16, 2023. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/03/1134682>.

²⁸ Corsi, Marcoluigi. 2024. Review of *Myanmar: Humanitarian Response Plan 2025. Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2025*, December. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/117588>.

²⁹ Ibid.

potential stability concerns within the region. As of the operation 1027 in October 2023, there have been major shifts in power – especially in relation to the Three Brotherhood Alliance and similar groups.³⁰ This, however, has added to the concerns of ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya Muslim population at the hands of the AA.³¹ With over 350,000 Rohingya have become displaced since the end of the ceasefire in November 2023, in addition to the rise in dangerous sea crossing attempts, the crisis within the Rakhine State of Myanmar has only continued to escalate.³² Despite the attempts by the UN to call for an end to the violence, a clear and functional solution has not been established. While several regional players have attempted – and in some cases briefly succeeding – to establish a ceasefire, the junta and ethnic militias have shown no real intent of staying true to these such agreements for longer than what is convenient to regather troops and strategize their next move. With all these growing issues in mind, the urgency to address this 5-year conflict has increased substantially.

Questions to Consider

As delegates conducting further research and consider how to address this topic, consider:

1. How can the Security Council help bring conflict in Myanmar to a conclusion? What is your Member State's position on the conflict? Which side if any does it support?
2. How has your Member State contributed to solving the humanitarian crisis?
3. How does the risk of human rights violations contribute to the continuous violence within Myanmar?

³⁰ “The Changing Role of the Three Brotherhood Alliance – Human Development Forum Foundation.” 2025. Hdff.org. 2025. <https://hddf.org/the-changing-role-of-the-three-brotherhood-alliance/>.

³¹ “Myanmar: Death, Destruction and Desperation Mirror 2017 Atrocities – UN Report.” 2017. OHCHR. 2017. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/09/myanmar-death-destruction-and-desperation-mirror-2017-atrocities-un-report>.

³² A/HRC/60/20