



Joint Public Forum Series 3

From Resolution to Action: Charting a Unified Regional Response on the Crisis in Myanmar

Date: 9 October 2025, Thursday

Venue: IDEAS Kuala Lumpur Hotel

Building on the momentum of two successful public forums held in Kuala Lumpur earlier this year namely the Public Forum and Solidarity Ceremony – Free Myanmar Now: Diaspora Resistance and the Fight for Democracy on 25 February 2025 and Joint Public Forum on Myanmar: Strengthening Support to Adopt ILO Resolution under Article 33 of the Constitution on 27 May 2025, this event represents the continued and unwavering commitment of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), trade unions, and civil society organizations in addressing the grave and persistent crisis in Myanmar. Convened as a collaborative initiative, the aim of this third joint forum in our series seeks to translate international consensus into tangible regional action.

The context for our engagement has reached a critical juncture. A significant milestone was achieved with the successful adoption of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Resolution on Myanmar under Article 33¹. This landmark decision provides a powerful mandate for accountability, yet it marks not an end but a new beginning. The urgent task now is to ensure this resolution is met with concrete, enforceable measures from member states and the international community.

While the world takes steps towards accountability, the Myanmar military junta continues its campaign of terror with impunity. Since the coup in February 2021, the junta has waged a campaign of terror and repression against the people of Myanmar. Over 7,000 civilians have been killed, more than 20,000 arbitrarily detained², and hundreds of thousands displaced. Trade unions have been systematically targeted, with at least 151 trade union leaders arrested and 37 killed for

¹ <https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2025-06/ILC113-Resolution-I-%5BBRELMEETINGS-250604-007%5D-EN.pdf>

² Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) <https://coup.aappb.org/data-dashboard>

their activism. These attacks have dismantled fundamental freedoms, including the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining.

The junta's assault on freedom of expression has also intensified. At least 11 media workers have been killed since the coup. Over 220 journalists from more than 100 media outlets have been detained, with 176 of them charged under nine separate laws, including incitement, "false news," and sweeping counter-terrorism provisions.³ As of July 2025, 49 journalists remained behind bars.

To make matters worse, the junta has rebranded its governing body from the "State Administration Council" (SAC) to the "State Security and Peace Commission" (SSPC). This rebranding is a strategic ploy to circumvent international sanctions. The name may have changed, but the violence, repression, and impunity remain the same.

Its dominance of airspace remains a key enabler of its atrocities, allowing for continued airstrikes against civilian populations. Simultaneously, the regime is pressing ahead with its plan to hold a sham election on 28 December 2025. This is a cynical maneuver designed to create a façade of legitimacy, consolidate its power, and permanently entrench its illegitimate rule.

These developments present an immediate and profound challenge to ASEAN and the wider international community. It is imperative that we, as a region, address how to counter the junta's violence, unequivocally reject its electoral charade, and uphold the democratic aspirations of the people of Myanmar.

In response to this critical moment, the core organising partners—the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM), Building and Woodworkers International (BWI), the International Trade Union Confederation - Asia Pacific (ITUC-AP), and the ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR). Together, we are convening this forum to bring key stakeholders together to chart a decisive path forward.

The forum will serve as a vital platform to:

- Explore concrete follow-up actions and state-level commitments required to implement the ILO Article 33 resolution effectively.
- Formulate actionable strategies to disrupt the supply chains, particularly of aviation fuel, that enable the junta's war crimes.
- Consolidate a unified regional position to denounce and refuse recognition of the junta's sham election.
- Critically examine the roles and responsibilities of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), and other key regional actors in advancing a just and peaceful resolution to the crisis.

³ International Centre for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) <https://www.icnl.org/post/report/assessing-detentions-of-journalists-in-myanmar>

Programme Tentative

Time	Agenda
08:30 AM	Registration
09:00 AM	Preliminaries Welcome Remarks: • YBhg. Dato' Seri Mohd Hishamudin Yunus, SUHAKAM Chairman International Solidarity Message: • Apolinar Z. Tolentino, BWI-AP Regional Representative Keynote Address: • Yang Berhormat Dato Sri' Saifuddin bin Abdullah, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, MP for Indera Mahkota
9:30 AM	Session 1: Implementation Framework of ILO Resolution on Myanmar under Article 33 This session will outline the implementation framework from the workers' perspective, spearheaded by CTUM, representing the voice of Myanmar's workers in direct engagement with the ILO's supervisory bodies. This session will reveal how targeted evidence on the aviation fuel supply chain, complicit banks, and military-linked businesses will be used to demand tangible actions, including sanctions and corporate disengagement, on the international stage. The session aims to identify workers' strategy to translate a paper resolution into real-world accountability. • Shoya Yoshida, General Secretary, ITUC-AP
10:30 AM	<i>Tea Break</i>
10:45 AM	Plenary 1: Aiding or Abetting? A Forum on Cutting the Junta's Fuel Lifeline Building directly on the evidence from the "Deadly Cargo" report, this plenary shifts from problem analysis to solution-oriented strategy. The panel will discuss the practical mechanisms available to disrupt the junta's fuel supply. Topics will include targeted sanctions, corporate accountability, and the role of international and regional bodies like ASEAN. Speakers: • Jan Erik Wetzel, Senior Policy Advisor, Amnesty International (online) • Prof. Dr. Salawati Mat Basir, Legal Advisor, National University of Malaysia (UKM) • James Bawi Thang Bik, President of Alliance of Chin Refugees • Representative of Myanmar Labour Alliance Moderator: Apolinar Z. Tolentino, BWI-AP Regional Representative

12:15 PM	<i>Lunch Break</i>
01:30 PM	Plenary 2: Illegal and Sham Elections: Military Junta Band-aid to Restoration of Democracy in Myanmar This plenary dissects the junta's plan to hold elections, exposing it as a strategic effort to create a façade of legitimacy. Panelists will analyse why this process can be neither free nor fair and discuss the profound damage it will inflict on Myanmar's democratic future. Speakers: • Khin Ohmar, Chairperson, Progressive Voice • Mahi Ramakrishnan, Forced Migration Consultant and Founder of Beyond Borders Malaysia • Charles Santiago, Co-Chair of APHR • Pacifist Farooq, Poet and Columnist of Rohingya community • Myanmar human rights lawyer • Debbie Stothard, Coordinator/Founder of ALTSEAN-Burma (video message) Moderator: Yang Berhormat Lee Chean Chung, Member of Parliament of Petaling Jaya
03:00 PM	<i>Tea Break</i>

03:15 PM	Plenary 3: The Role of Stakeholders in the Myanmar Crisis: Challenges, Accountability, and Regional Responses This session zooms in on the role of institutions, specifically National Human Rights Institution (NHRI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR). It will critically assess the failure of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) to protect its citizens and explore how the regional counterparts can exert pressure and champion accountability. Speakers: • Dr. Zufar Yadi Brendan Abdullah, SUHAKAM Children's Commissioner • H.E. Edmund Bon Tai Soon, AICHR Chair & Representative of Malaysia to AICHR (video message) • Michelle Yesudas, Advisory Board of Legal Dignity and Former Senior Legal Expert for the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) in Yangon, Myanmar • Nang Hwam San Kham, Chairperson of Shan Refugee Organization • Myanmar Employer Organisation Representative Moderator: Wong Yan Ke, Regional Climate and Forestry Officer, BWI-AP
04:45 PM	Call to Action & Closing Remarks
05:15 PM	<i>End</i>