

Hi All

Just as a quick update on the previous email.

A few days ago, the Military announced that their second in charge had a phone conversation with Australian Military Second in charge. They have made an official statement that goes along the lines of "we are military like your military - we uphold the constitution and democracy." Eh Hsu found this particularly amusing and would say it to me laughing. What bothers me and many people is that the Australian Government still has not really issued a firm statement about the coup and definitely not about this phone conversation. Many people are asking "since when does Australia let the Myanmar Military speak for them?" I find this a good question. Now despite searching I have not been able to find something on this. If you do send it my way - if you don't I encourage you to contact our government and demand they make a firm statement. The reputation of Australia here at the moment is that we are soft on the military and that equates to support in their eyes.

Now I don't advocate this newspaper for education purpose - but it is the preferred voice of the military and this article has been shared to me many times asking me - So why hasn't Australia commented, reported or made a statement on this?! I think it's a good question I am hoping some of you will push for an answer. <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/vice-senior-general-holds-discussions-with-australian-vice-chief-of-defence-force-over-phone/#article-title>

There are also growing rumours that since Australia has not made firm statements similar to the US and other countries that we are soft on the military. There are rumours that a number of members of family of the military have been allowed into Australia. A Myanmar Airplane was photographed on the tarmac at Perth International Airport recently – it seems it was a privately chartered flight to either take military families to or from Australia. I have asked a number of friends and it is seeming like they are removing family members from Australia who have supposedly had their visas revoked. There has been no clear statement on this, however.

Now I meant to add this to the previous email, but I forgot in my haste to send. This gives you a prewritten letter to send as is or to add to and send to our foreign minister, I have done this and sent it to family and would recommend you do also. There are some interesting links to be found on this page. For the Americans or British or Canadians reading - there is a little tab to select your own top peeps! I highly recommend this.

<https://democracyformyanmar.org/>

So all the banks are closed. In my last normal newsletter I mentioned we were in the process of trying to buy a house – that is indefinitely on hold and we are thankful we hesitated to bring all the money into Myanmar at present. All private banks are closed, the military bank is rumoured to be close to bankrupt and 3 owners/CEO's of private banks have been arrested. One owner of a bank that has been arrested and the money frozen is the bank we had started to bring our house money into. We had thankfully not put much in the account and at the beginning of the coup had hedged our bets and withdrew half of it. So we have money and did not lose very much in the scheme of things.

Today in Yangon there was a counter rally - by so called Military Supporters. Barricades that had been in place for the pro-democracy movement were removed for the pro military protest. They were supported and protected by the Police and Military. Interestingly reports are coming out that this group were made up of people being paid something like between 5,000 and 7,000 kyat (less than \$7AUD) for 3 days of supporting the military at these protests. A logbook outlining who was paid and how much was found. I look forward to hearing more about this. These pro military supporters also attacked a number of democracy supporters, someone was stabbed in downtown Yangon and many pictures are emerging of the military supporters having sharp implements such as knives that they are threatening people with. It is a likely theory that many of these "pro military" crew are actually made up of many of the prisoners who were recently released from prison to create havoc in communities and others are thought to be law enforcement in civilian clothing. I have seen one report that democracy people have attacked pro military - however this is not the case. The



democracy movement has been and continues to be non-violent. If you are reading otherwise in the media, it is wildly untrue.

Tonight, there have been multiple arrests in a township in Yangon who refused to accept a military appointee as their ward leader. There have been reports of gunshots at a crowd of unarmed peaceful protestors. This image gave me chills. It is a prodemocracy supporter protesting on his knees in the face of many armed riot police officers. He was arrested.

One of the differences about what is going on here is that the Youth who have learned their lessons from the 88 generation, are standing firm on a platform of inclusivity and peaceful interaction. The leaders are people from a variety of ethnic groups, and they are clear that the country needs to unite against the military. This is not simply the Burman majority. There has been some heart felt and humble public apologies that people did not stand up for the Rohingya nor the Rahkine. A fabulous article and I encourage you all to read is this one below. One of the artists mentioned is an amazing woman who when she was in college spent a few months living with me in Mae Sot and interning at Partners. She is quality! I am so proud of what she is doing.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Life-Arts/Young-creative-and-angry-Myanmar-s-youth-pushes-back>

Ok it occurred to me that you may not all be aware of who Min Aung Hlaing is - he is the evil little man who has been in charge of the military the past many years. He was responsible for orchestrating the genocide against the Rohingya and continuing the violence in many ethnic areas. He is someone who should be tried for a litany of war crimes and human rights violations.

Now a few articles to get you believing in the movement that is standing against the regime. To have you believe there is hope – there have been many cynical op-eds that have assumed the story to have been completely written and decided. I don't believe this to be true. I think it is always worth it to fight against evil – how can you triumph if you don't try?

<https://www.frontiermyanmar.net/en/myanmar-politics-must-be-re-made-not-restored/>

<https://www.frontiermyanmar.net/en/why-the-coup-will-fail-and-what-the-tatmadaw-can-do-about-it/>