**United Nations Security Council**

**The situation in Myanmar**

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**Letter from the Committee Directors**

Dearest delegates of the Security Council,

My name is Gökçe Sivrikaya and I am currently studying law in the United Kingdom. It will be my pleasure to be serving as one of your committee directors in this committee.

I am Toqa Sharif, a year 11 student studying at IBOS. I am delighted to be one of the committee directors of UNSC

On behalf of the precious teams behind this conference, whom we have no doubt have done their best to ensure a high-quality conference in today’s circumstances, it is our utmost pleasure to welcome you to the SAFIRMUN’21. For these upcoming days of the conference, as the committee directors of the Security Council, it is our duty to inform you about the chosen agenda item which is a controversial topic for the world.

As it is known, we are frequently encountering many problems in today’s developing world. Now, it is up to you, dear delegates, to restore order, to restore order, to fight for justice, for peace, for the sake of the world. Throughout the conference, you, the honourable delegates of the Security Council will be debating upon the ‘Situation in Myanmar’ to come up with a solution. Since the topic carries great significance, the delegates are expected to evaluate and address the issue with the awareness of representing a diplomat.

We are looking forward to hearing all of your ideas and observing the debates that will lead us to the solution. During the conference, we will be there to guide and support you. Yet before the conference, if you have any inquiry, do not hesitate to contact us. (gokcesivrikaya35@hotmail.com) (toqasharif12@gmail.com)

With that being said, please be reminded that the study guide on its own would never be enough to fully educate yourselves on such complicated matters, hence make sure to make further readings and perform your own research in addition to reading the study guide.

Best regards,

Gökçe Sivrikaya & Toqa Sharif

Committee Directors of Security Council

**Introduction to the Committee**

The Security Council is one of the main committees of the United Nations. It is established under Article 7 of the United Nations Charter and has the responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Council is composed of 15 members, of which 5 being permanent members with veto powers (also known as the P5 Countries) that are as follows; China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States. And the other 10 non-permanent members of the Security Council are selected from the General Assembly on a rotational basis. These members are selected based upon each member’s contribution to the main responsibility of the Security Council -maintenance of international peace and security and equitable geographical distribution.

Under the Charter of the United Nations deriving its power from Article 24 leverage to act on behalf of members of the General Assembly and to trust its decision on determining when there is a threat to peace and security, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions. The Security Council is one of the few organs aside from the WHO and IAEA that make legal instruments which are binding on the members.

It should be noted down that the Security Council was not established to make law, its primary role is to take the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression, maintaining international peace and security. Hence it calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of the settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.

**Introduction to the Topic**

Myanmar, a country neighbouring Bangladesh, India, China, Thailand, and Laos, located in the Southeast of Asia was originally known as Burma and was a British colony until the year of 1962 in which the country was started to be ruled by the military as the result of a coup. Since its independence has been declared, the state was divided into groups of Burmese people -which consists of 2/3 of the entire population- and various ethnic minority groups During the pro-democracy movement based upon the fact that the name “Burma” has been seen as an aftermath of the British colonization and it was supported that the name was offering exclusiveness to the Burma majority of the country[[1]](#footnote-0), the military in government decided to rename the country as Myanmar. And throughout this time more than 30,000 people were killed. From that day onwards the number of casualties increased. The military coup went on until 2011 where a new government took its place.  As of now, the military removed the elected government and declared a year-long state of emergency because the armed forces backed the opposing group. The coup may be deemed as it has been driven by the military's goal to preserve its central role in Burmese politics. 

The crisis in Myanmar -which is based on the atrocities against the Muslim population within the region of the Rakhine State- has reached its peak and was a hot topic for international press during 2017. Hence, it is crucial to note that the Rohingya Muslims, who numbered around one million in Myanmar at the start of 2017, representing the largest percentage of Muslims in Myanmar, with the majority living in Rakhine state also known as the Rohingya people have suffered decades of violence, discrimination, and persecution because of the oppressive and marginalizing policies in Myanmar. With that being said it is possible to see that this situation in Myanmar demonstrates a threat against to the human rights. Therefore in 2019 it has been stated that the crisis in Myanmar is a major problem of the international community and the Security Council should focus on finding a permanent solution in order to resolve the crisis after many years of turbulence.[[2]](#footnote-1)

**Historical Background**

As briefly mentioned in the previous part of this document, Myanmar had always struggled with internal conflicts because of the military rules, civil wars, and widespread poverty. Myanmar has been ruled by a military junta for many years since it gained independence from British colonial rule in 1948.  And even though country was involving more than 100 various ethnical minority, the minorities were only 1/3 of the country while the majority was Burmese. Also the country’s democratic model came to an end at the year of 1962, moving on ‘in 1974, Burma adopted a model based to isolation and nationalisation of the major enterprises, in respect to a socialist economic model.’[[3]](#footnote-2) The first session since Myanmar’s Nov.8 elections was scheduled, in which the National League for Democracy, Myanmar’s leading civilian party, won over the majority of the body’s available seats. Aung San Suu Kyi, who was head of the National League for Democracy (NLD), received 83% of the votes. The military refused to accept those results and declared that it was a fraud.Hence the military imprisoned the leaders of the National League for Democracy and other civilian officials, including Aung San Suu Kyi and President U Win Myint, cabinet ministers, the chief ministers of several regions, politicians from the opposition side, writers and activists. The coup was then announced on Myawaddy TV, and it was declared that the state of emergency will remain in place for a year. Moving on, the military took over the country’s infrastructure, preventing domestic or international flights, cancelling television broadcasts, telephone, and internet access. Furthermore, commercial banks and the stock market were closed.

In 2008, the authorities blocked the humanitarian aid -which was in order to support the victims of Cyclone Nargis- and this led to the doubts regarding to the legitimacy of the regime. Afterwards a new constitution was announced by the governing military – junta- however the real demonstration of a more democratic constitution was an aftermath of the junta’s dissolution. However even though in a political aspect the country is in a more democratic place, the violence on the domestic level did not decrease.

**The Recent Situation in Myanmar**

 **5.1 Actions taken by military**

As stated, the country’s armed forces -also known as Tatmadaw- took control of the country’s infrastructure, suspending most television broadcasts and cancelling domestic and international flights. Not only that, but also internet access and telephone access was suspended. The security forces shot pro-democracy demonstrators, killing five people. Despite the call from Indonesia and the United States, the European Unionand others, the military leadership in Myanmar has only intensified its push in recent weeks against supporters of ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi. And over 2,258 people have been arrested and more than 224 have been killed. And the part in consideration for this committee is that Myanmar's military also arrested and arbitrarily detained male Rohingyas who were between 15 to 40 years old.

**5.2 The Reaction**

Peaceful protests turned into one of the world’s genocides when two unarmed protesters, including a 16-year-old boy, were killed by the armed forces on February 20. These deaths led to a general strike, where millions of people protested in the streets, on the 22nd of February. The expanded civil disobedience movement has paralyzed the banking system and made it difficult for the military to get much done.

**5.3 The allegation of Genocide**

The most known issue upon Myanmar might be the ‘Rohingya crisis’ or the ‘Rakhine crisis’ since this is the main reason for aggravating sanctions that the country is face to face. In addition to the fact that a part of the crisis is that the Rohingya people might be referred as stateless according to the international law since being stateless is defined as ‘someone who is not considered a national by any state under its law’[[4]](#footnote-3) and Rohingya are not actually connected to either Myanmar nor another state, therefore they are not in possession of any rights regarding to either any kind of legal protection or representation at the court of any country as their citizen[[5]](#footnote-4) and Myanmar’s objective of not attributing the group any past/roots is a violation of the human rights according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[[6]](#footnote-5); the real trigger is the fact that the Rohingya have suffered decades of violence, discrimination, and persecution in Myanmar, facing intense brutalities such as murder, torture, rape, and other forms of violence, the case is deemed as ‘ethnic cleansing’ and ‘genocide’ by the international community as supported by a study estimating more than 24,000 Rohingya people were killed and over 18,000 Rohingya Muslim women and girls were raped, 116,000 Rohingya people were tortured.

**Issues that must be discussed in a resolution paper**

* In which ways the international organizations such as but not limited to United Nations can take part in order to create solutions which are instantaneous and permanent as possible?
* To what extent is it possible and should be allowed for the international community to take part in competently reinstating democratic compositions?
* What kind of philanthropical actions could be taken in order to help the victims?
* Is there a possibility for an international tribunal to be shaped with the purposes of rebuking the abuse of human rights and bringing justice to the ones who have been suffering in Myanmar?
* Can a domestic understanding be reached between the armed forces and the government? If so, how? What are the things that could amount to be deemed as the possible compromises?
* What kind of precautions could be taken against the threats of extremist organizations?

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3. ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
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	1. Everyone has the right to a nationality.
	2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality [↑](#footnote-ref-5)