MEDIA RELEASE

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JFM welcomes EU and US sanctions on the Myanmar military junta & arms brokers

Pace of sanctions needs to be urgently increased, better coordinated & expanded

Justice For Myanmar welcomes the latest round of EU and US sanctions on the Myanmar military junta and its arms brokers, marking the second anniversary of the 2020 democratic elections that was illegally overturned by the Myanmar military.

The EU sanctioned 19 individuals and one entity. These include the junta’s highest body, the State Administration Council (SAC), the junta’s air force chief, General Tun Aung, and the crony arms brokers, Dr Aung Moe Myint, Dr Naing Htut Aung and Tay Za.

Aung Moe Myint heads Dynasty Group of Companies and is the Honorary Consul of Belarus to Myanmar. He has brokered the purchase of arms and related materiel from Belarus, Russia and Germany. Dynasty Group of Companies also operates in Singapore.

Naing Htut Aung heads International Gateways Group of Companies and is a key broker of Chinese arms for the Myanmar military.

Tay Za heads Htoo Group of Companies, which has ongoing business with the Myanmar military and its conglomerates and has brokered arms deals. Tay Za lives and operates businesses in Singapore. In February 2022, the EU sanctioned Htoo Group of Companies.

The US sanctioned the arms broker Kyaw Min Oo and his company, Sky Aviator Company Limited.

Sky Aviator is a Myanmar military arms broker that has procured equipment from Russia and Ukraine since the attempted coup, including YAK-130 support equipment from Concern Radio-Electronic Technologies (KRET), refitted turbojet engines from United Engine Corporation and engine parts from Rosoboronexport and Motor Sich. According to a proposal leaked to Justice For Myanmar, Sky Aviator represents JSC Russian Helicopters in Myanmar.

Justice For Myanmar spokesperson Yadanar Maung says: “We welcome the latest round of sanctions, coordinated between the EU and US.

“Targeted sanctions are essential to disrupt the flow of revenue and arms to the Myanmar military junta, which is a terrorist organisation.

“However, the pace of sanctions designations needs to be urgently increased, better coordinated and expanded to cover whole networks of junta businesses and their associates.

“We call on the US and the EU to swiftly sanction Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise and Asia Sun Group, to stop the flow of jet fuel that enables the junta’s indiscriminate air strikes.”
“The US must act now to sanction Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), the biggest source of foreign revenue for the terrorist junta.

“These latest sanctions highlight the shameful inaction of democracies in the region, including Australia, India, Japan and South Korea, which have failed to impose any sanctions against the junta and its businesses. We call on them to act now to help end the junta’s war of terror against the people of Myanmar.”

More information:

See our list of Myanmar military arms brokers here

Read our investigation into Dynasty Group of Companies here

Read our investigation into International Gateways Group here

Read our investigation into Htoo Group of Companies here

Justice For Myanmar, a group of covert activists campaigning for justice and accountability for the people of Myanmar, is calling for an end to military business and for federal democracy and a sustainable peace.

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