



No one is free until everyone is free

**Dear Cardinals, Archbishops and Bishops of Asia,  
Dear Heads of Catholic Lay Movements of Asia,  
Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,  
Dear Ecumenical and Inter-faith Friends,**

It is more than 140 days since the coup and crackdown on democracy in Myanmar.

As of 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021,

- ✓ 873 people are confirmed killed by this junta coup (<https://aappb.org/?p=15992>)
- ✓ Of these, at least 73 children were killed
- ✓ A total of 5,045 people are currently under detention, and
- ✓ 1,950 have been issued arrest warrants; of them 31 were sentenced to death.
- ✓ There are 980,000 Refugees and asylum-seekers from Myanmar in neighbouring countries as of 31 December 2020 (UNHCR update @ 01 June 2021), of which
- ✓ 15,000 refugees seeking shelter in India since 01 Feb 2021 with more likely to cross over
- ✓ 370,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) within Myanmar @ 31 December 2020, with
- ✓ 175,000 displaced since 01 February 2021 (UNHCR update @ 01 June 2021), and
- ✓ 600,000 jobs have been lost, and the poor are being hit the hardest.
- ✓ 3.4 million will go hungry this year without sufficient funding and food, estimates the UN

There is a gradual eclipse of hope for the people of Myanmar.

Any economic or democratic collapse in Myanmar will only destabilise the region and spell a dark period for the rest of Asia. This will further encourage the rise of authoritarian states and ideologies of violence and extremism.





### Who are we?

We are Asians, Catholics, from lay movements and other organisations, who came together to pray for the peoples of Myanmar. We felt we had to do something to show our solidarity with these peoples, even if it be just small gestures. We are from:

1. *Teresian Association (TA) Vocation and Youth Ministry, Asia*
2. *Intl. Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS), Asia*
3. *Intl. Federation of Catholic Parochial Youth Movements (FIMCAP), Asia*
4. *Intl. Young Catholic Students (IYCS), Asia*
5. *SIGNIS Malaysia, Thailand, Asia*
6. *Society of St. Vincent De Paul (SSVP), Cambodia, Asia*
7. *Intl. Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth (MIJARC) Asia*
8. *Young Lives Development Center, Asia*
9. *Fondacio Asia*

Other organisations:

1. *Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) Malaysia*
2. *North South Initiative (NSI)*
3. *Wiseowl*
4. *Community Action Network (CAN)*
5. *Kachin Refugee Community, Malaysia*

Slowly we began to work as a coalition of Catholic movements. Today we join the call of Pope Francis, many cardinals, bishops and Church leaders from Asia and around the world to stand and work for "peace and freedom in Myanmar." We humbly offer this small plan of action to the local Churches in Asia, and hope to work with you to conscientise fellow Catholics and all the young peoples of Asia.

### What do we hope to achieve?

*"Loving an oppressor does not mean allowing him to keep oppressing us, or letting him think that what he does is acceptable. On the contrary, true love for an oppressor means seeking ways to make him cease his oppression; it means stripping him of a power that he does not know how to use, and that diminishes his own humanity and that of others."*

(Fratelli Tutti #241)

1. Bring **AWARENESS** among Catholic youth – on Gospel values, catholic social teachings, and awaken their awareness and reflection on critical issues
2. Ask faith leaders and elders to **ACCOMPANY** the young and lay – to journey together and provide linkages to various Catholic movements and initiatives in Asia.
3. Call to **ACTION** – by sharing with the young and peoples of all faiths the importance of working for a more humane and just world – "no one is free until everyone is free!" Call to **ACTION** – by sharing with the young and peoples of all faiths the importance of working for a more humane and just world – "no one is free until everyone is free!"





## Proposed activities

- Faith Campaign* – Prayer intentions, Prayer Cards, Video clips, Solidarity messages and bringing the stories of the peoples of Myanmar to Asia
- Webinars* – to help understand what is happening in Myanmar and the consequences for Asia; and mobilise people to know and act from their faith. These workshops can be carried out by any youth office in your parishes and dioceses.
- Advocacy* – actions, initiatives that can be carried out by individual Catholics or groups to promote freedom and peace in Myanmar and across the region.

## Secretariat & Contact persons

Here are the Secretariat team members:

*Webinar/workshops* – Douglas Teoh [teohse.douglas@gmail.com](mailto:teohse.douglas@gmail.com)

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You can email anyone of them at: [youth4myanmar@gmail.com](mailto:youth4myanmar@gmail.com)

We furnish here the list of volunteer contact persons from various lay movements and offices in your respective countries. You can contact them for details of any of the above training and communication. They will also act as the relay and network among us.

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You can also visit the **Youth4Myanmar Campaign** page to view or download materials:

Facebook: YouthForMyanmar  
 Instagram: Youth4mym  
 Website: www.youth4freedom.com

## Launching night

On the Feast of St. Peter and Paul, together with Bishop Joel Baylon D.D. of Legazpi Diocese, the Philippines, former Bishop-in-charge of the Youth Desk of the FABC Office of Laity and Family, we invite you to an online launch of this campaign on:

**Tuesday 29 June 2021, from 8pm to 9pm (Manila time)**

There will be a presentation of the situation in Myanmar, intercessory prayers, keynote address, and a message and blessing from Bishop Baylon.

Here is the link to register for Youth4Myanmar Campaign Launching:

<https://forms.gle/g3g3hToWMD47Ln3E6>

On behalf of the various Catholic lay movements and offices, and all who are working together for this campaign, we ask for your kind support and prayers.

Indeed, we must believe that,

**“If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36)**

In solidarity,  
 Melanie