

Burma Briefing

Countries involved in training and cooperation with the Burmese Military

Burma
campaign UK

No. 54
March 2021

13 countries involved in training and cooperation with the Burmese Military

Thirteen countries are involved in military training and/or cooperation with the Burmese military, despite its human rights record. Since the military coup, Australia has announced it is reviewing the training it provides but has still not announced a decision to stop the training.

The Burmese military and violations of international law

For more than thirty years, the United Nations has been documenting human rights violations by the Burmese military which break international law.

In 2018 the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar reported that there was evidence that the Burmese military has committed genocide and crimes against humanity against the Rohingya and war crimes against ethnic minorities in Kachin and Shan States.

The Burmese military is being investigated for crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Court. The International Court of Justice has agreed to hear a case that Burma is in breach of its obligations under the Genocide Convention following the Burmese military offensive against Rohingya civilians, mostly children, in 2017.

On 1st February 2021, the Burmese military held an illegal coup, overthrowing the democratically elected government, shooting peaceful protesters on the streets and arresting and illegally detaining more than a thousand people.

Increasing cooperation after genocide

With the exception of Pakistan, the countries on this list have all made agreements to continue or even increase military training and cooperation since the genocide of the Rohingya in 2017. Not one country has been transparent on exactly what training and cooperation is taking place. Burma Campaign UK is not aware of any of these countries announcing that they will end military training and cooperation since the coup.



Countries involved in training and cooperation with the Burmese military

1) Australia

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/australia-s-defence-spends-almost-1-5-million-on-myanmar-s-military-over-past-five-years-20210202-p56ymj.html>

2) Japan

<https://mod.gov.mm/news/item/34-myanmar-japan-to-strengthen-military-cooperation>

3) India

<https://thediplomat.com/2019/07/india-myanmar-conclude-defense-cooperation-agreement/>

4) Thailand

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-thailand-myanmar-idUSKCN1G01D1>

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/1413774/myanmar-general-given-royal-honour>

5) Russia

<http://eng.mil.ru/en/management/info/news/more.htm?id=12191987@egNews&g=newsPhoto>

6) China

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-01/18/c_138716154.htm

7) Vietnam

<https://en.qdnd.vn/military/intl-relations-and-cooperation/vietnam-myanmar-to-develop-defense-ties-in-intensive-manner-509859>

8) Cambodia

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50791574/cambodia-myanmar-laude-bilateral-military-cooperation/>

9) Ukraine

<https://112.international/politics/ukraines-government-approves-military-cooperation-with-myanmar-38487.html>

10) North Korea

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/north-korea-china-and-russia-are-arming-myanmars-military-despite-genocide-accusations-un-report-finds/2019/08/05/f4dd49d0-b531-11e9-acc8-1d847bacca73_story.html

11) Nepal

<https://mm.nepalembassy.gov.np/press-release-on-nepals-chief-of-armys-visit-to-myanmar/>

12) Pakistan

<https://www.pac.org.pk/news-archive>

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/280636-Myanmar-Chief-of-Air-Staff-meets-Joint-Chief-of-St>

13) Belarus

<https://eng.belta.by/society/view/myanmar-delegation-gets-familiar-with-belarus-capabilities-in-air-defense-128098-2020/>

More Information

Special Rapporteur on Myanmar

https://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?m=89

UN General Assembly Resolutions

<https://burmacampaign.org.uk/useful-resources/un-general-assembly-resolutions-on-burma/>

UN Fact Finding Mission

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/hrc/myanmarffm/pages/index.aspx>

International Criminal Court case

<https://www.icc-cpi.int/Pages/item.aspx?name=pr1495>

International Court of Justice case

<https://www.icj-cij.org/en/case/178>

Australia's review

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/australia-urged-to-follow-allies-by-taking-action-against-leaders-of-myanmar-s-military-coup>

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& Development in Burma**