



AUSTRALIA



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UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

26 February 2021

Briefing by the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on Myanmar

Statement by H.E. The Hon. Mitch Fifield, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations

As delivered

Madame President.

We thank the Special Envoy for her briefing and for her tireless efforts, and we're grateful for the statement by the President of the General Assembly.

And can I also acknowledge and thank our colleague from Myanmar for his contribution today which can only be described as 'profound'.

Colleagues,

Australia is deeply concerned about the situation in Myanmar. As a longstanding supporter of Myanmar's democratic transition and its peace process, we call on the military to respect the rule of law.

We offer our condolences for the recent loss of life. The use of lethal force and violence against civilians is unacceptable. We strongly urge security forces to exercise restraint in response to peaceful protests.

Madame President,

Australian Professor Sean Turnell was detained on February 6 after working to support Myanmar's economic development for many years. We continue to call for the immediate release of Professor Turnell, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, President U Win Myint and all others who have been arbitrarily detained since 1 February.

Madame President,

Australia's commitment to the people of Myanmar remains steadfast. We strongly urge the military to engage in dialogue and support the reconvening of the National Assembly the Myanmar people so clearly want.

Australia remains concerned about the impact of recent events on the protracted humanitarian crises in Rakhine, Kachin, Shan, Kayin and Chin states. These crises disproportionately affect the most vulnerable, including women, children and people with disabilities. We urge unhindered humanitarian access and we strongly support a visit by the Special Envoy to Myanmar as soon as possible.

Thank you.