

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 64

Reps. Haadsma, Rogers, Scott, Farhat, Hill, Arbit, McFall, Conlin, Morgan, Brenda Carter, Young, O'Neal, Neeley, Tyrone Carter, Witwer, Morse, Martus, Weiss, Puri, Brixie, Koleszar, Brabec, Mentzer, Paiz, Wilson, Pohutsky, Snyder, Hope, Liberati, Coffia, Price, Tsernoglou, Andrews, Rheingans, Wegela, Coleman, Grant, Hood, Edwards, Dievendorf, Miller, Byrnes, Steckloff, Breen, Shannon, MacDonell, Churches, Fitzgerald, McKinney, Whitsett, Aiyash and Glanville offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to memorialize the federal government to continue
2 to stand with the Burmese people against the military coup in
3 Burma.

4 Whereas, Two years ago, on February 1, 2021, the military of
5 Burma carried out a coup against the nation's government. On the
6 day when a newly elected parliament was scheduled to convene, the

1 military deposed the government in defiance of the will of the
2 people, falsely claiming there had been widespread voter fraud.
3 State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, who has worked to democratize
4 Burma for decades and is the leader of the ruling National League
5 for Democracy (NLD) party, was detained on spurious charges. She
6 has since been found guilty of several crimes in closed trials and
7 sentenced to decades in prison. Her lawyers were forbidden from
8 discussing the case. Other prominent members of the NLD party,
9 including President Win Myint, were also detained. Those who might
10 pose a threat to the regime in future elections have been killed,
11 jailed, subjected to violence, or forced to flee the country; and

12 Whereas, The military regime in Burma has engaged in a
13 campaign of violence and oppression against the Burmese people. At
14 least 2,940 people have been killed by the military or their
15 affiliates, and at least 17,572 people have been detained. Health
16 workers, medical supplies, and stocks of food have been targeted
17 for destruction, leaving approximately 40 percent of the population
18 in poverty. Even in areas with no active fighting, civilians are
19 not safe; soldiers have burned homes, cattle, and people. Since the
20 coup, 1.3 million people have been internally displaced, and the
21 United Nations estimates that 17.6 million people, nearly one-third
22 of the population, will be in need of humanitarian aid in 2023. In
23 attempts to hide their atrocities and suppress dissent, the regime
24 has required the registration of non-governmental organizations and
25 threatened harsh prison sentences for those supporting anti-
26 military armed groups on social media; and

27 Whereas, Despite threats to their health and safety, the
28 people of Burma have stood against this assault on their democracy.
29 Even as protesters were shot in the streets, the people launched a

1 Civil Disobedience Movement, refusing to bow to tyrants; and

2 Whereas, Michigan has been a place of refuge for the Burmese
3 people for years. Over the period 2008 to 2014, Michigan took in
4 the tenth-largest population of Burmese refugees in the United
5 States. The Burma Center was established in Springfield in 2014,
6 offering health, wellness, and education services to the local
7 Burmese population. Since the coup in 2021, the Burma Center has
8 been crucial in helping Burmese Michiganders cope with fears for
9 their loved ones and with reminders of their own flights from the
10 military regime decades ago; and

11 Whereas, The United States government has taken important
12 steps to oppose the military takeover in Burma. Just days after the
13 coup d'état, the United States President declared a national
14 emergency to deal with the threat posed by the situation, blocking
15 transactions in property in the United States by various persons
16 related to the Burmese military and suspending entry of these
17 persons into the United States. Within the National Defense
18 Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023, Congress expanded the
19 executive branch's authority to impose sanctions to help bring
20 about the restoration of civilian government in Burma by enacting
21 the Burma Unified through Rigorous Military Accountability (BURMA)
22 Act of 2022. The United States continues to impose sanctions on
23 individuals and entities that support or attempt to legitimize the
24 military regime, though the nation could be even more proactive in
25 its Burma policy; and

26 Whereas, Continued solidarity of the United States with the
27 Burmese people will be crucial in returning democracy to Burma.
28 While the United Nations Security Council recently adopted a
29 resolution expressing its deep concern with the situation and

1 demanding an immediate end to the violence, the United Nations has
2 continued to have limited access to Burma for reporting, oversight,
3 and humanitarian aid. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations
4 (ASEAN) has been unable to exert sufficient pressure to end the
5 violence, with opposition to the military regime varying between
6 member nations. As the leader of the free world, it is the duty of
7 the United States to use its influence to advocate for an end to
8 military rule in Burma; now, therefore, be it

9 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize
10 the federal government to continue to stand with the Burmese people
11 against the military coup in Burma; and be it further

12 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
13 President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States
14 House of Representatives, the President of the United States
15 Senate, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.