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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing,

On Saturday, April 24, you participated in an ASEAN Leaders Meeting in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia that was convened to address the catastrophic developments in Myanmar since the February 1 coup d'état.

You reportedly agreed, through a consensus document released at the conclusion of the meeting, to an "immediate cessation of violence in Myanmar." This is an imperative first-step toward ending a crisis that has already cost more than 750 lives, including the lives of young children, at the hands of Myanmar's security forces.

The people of Myanmar, who have been protesting peacefully across the country for the restoration of democracy, need and deserve to know if it is your intention to honor this commitment. I write to seek your public commitment that you will honor the fundamental right of the people of Myanmar to freely express their views, including opposition to your actions, without fear of injury, death or arbitrary arrest.

This is a matter of grave importance. Indeed, for those who believe that they may now freely exercise this fundamental human right without fear of attack by forces under your command, this is literally a matter of life or death.

I further request that you act on the appeals made by ASEAN leaders, including Indonesian President Joko Widodo and Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin, for you to promptly and unconditionally release all political prisoners detained since 1 February. Finally, I request that you honor your commitment and immediately accept a visit from the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair and allow the Special Envoy access to "all parties concerned," including Myanmar President Win Myint and State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi.

Together with the people of Myanmar, I eagerly await your public response.

Sincerely,

Thomas Andrews  
United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing  
Naypyidaw