

Netherlands-Myanmar Solidarity Platform
Stichting Nederlands Myanmar Solidariteitsplatform

Annual Report 2024

April 2025



Introduction

On 1 February 2021 a coup d'état by the army made an end to the democratically elected government led by Aung San Suu Kyi in Myanmar. The population did not accept this and strong resistance developed. The military continues to violently oppress the population, including through airstrikes, killings of people and burning down villages.

Meanwhile, the military has lost control over many parts of the country, further supporting the case for recognition of the National Unity Government (NUG), set up by the democratically elected lawmakers in hiding after the coup. By the end of 2022, the United Nations Security Council adopted its first Resolution (nr. 2669) on Myanmar since 1948, expressing deep concern at the “ongoing state of emergency imposed by the military in Myanmar on 1 February 2021 and its grave impact on the people of Myanmar” and at the “violence across the country, and attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure, including educational, health and energy infrastructure and facilities, and attacks on businesses and public properties”. It condemned the military’s execution of pro-democracy activists, urged the military to “immediately release all arbitrarily detained prisoners,” including deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi, and demanded an “immediate end to all forms of violence throughout the country.”¹

This year violence continued in many parts of the country. Resistance forces gained ground and the military doesn’t control large parts of the country. The Netherlands Myanmar Solidarity Platform continued to stay up-to-date with political development in Myanmar, while engaging with the Myanmar diaspora community in the Netherlands and advocating for Myanmar’s democratic movement to public policy makers in the Netherlands and the rest of the world.

Netherlands Myanmar Solidarity Platform

After the establishment of the Netherlands Myanmar Solidarity Platform in 2021 in response to the coup, 2024 was our third full year of operation.

In the Articles of Association (“Statuten”) the official purpose of the Platform Foundation is defined as:

- a. *promoting an inclusive, federal, democratic rule of law in Myanmar where the human rights of all Myanmar people are respected.*
- b. *the performance of all further acts, related to the pursuance, directly or indirectly, of the above objective.*

The Foundation shall endeavour to achieve its objective by:

- *supporting, financially or otherwise, organizations, groups and individuals in Myanmar who are committed to this goal;*
- *lobbying, anywhere in the world, for this purpose;*
- *mobilizing support and raising funds to achieve the goal;*
- *research and publications that support the goal.*

In the Initial Plan 2021 - 2022 we formulated the following vision for the platform:

¹ <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/N2276733.pdf>

We strive for a platform that, through the efforts of a dynamic community of volunteers and coordination by a small bureau, provides effective support to people and groups in Myanmar who stand up for an inclusive, federal democracy.

Platform activities 2024

Unfortunately, the Board had to observe that interest and energy for the situation in Myanmar declined substantially in the Netherlands. As we mentioned in last year's Annual Report, we started conversations with members of the Myanmar diaspora in the Netherlands to increase their involvement in the Foundation. These conversations continued in 2024. Some members of the diaspora have been working on new plans for the work of the Foundation, but these weren't finalized yet by the end of the year.

Meanwhile little activities took place. The Board held two formal meetings. On 13 August the Board reappointed Frank van der Valk, Swe Swe Aye and Ruud Keulen as Chair, Secretary and Treasurer of the Board, respectively, for a period of three years, in accordance with the Articles of Association (Statuten). On 28 November, the Board decided that Ms. Swe Swe Aye will take over as Chair of the Board from 1 January 2025, Frank van der Valk will stay on as member of the Board.

Finances

The foundation received one private donation of € 50 this year. The only expenses were administrative costs (bank, website, Zoom) of € 460 in total. By the end of the year the foundation still held a reserve of € 2104. Our full financial report is included in the Annex.

Organisation

During 2024, the Board of the NMSP Foundation comprised:

Frank van der Valk, chair,

Swe Swe Aye, secretary,

Ruud Keulen, treasurer, and

Sai Sam Kham, member (until 2 September)