

## **OilWatch Southeast Asia calls on international oil and mining companies to stop operations in Burma immediately**

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Since the unlawful military coup in Burma on February 1, the military regime has killed more than 700 protesters throughout the country, including nearly 50 children. It has already arrested nearly 3,000 people, including democratically-elected President U Win Myint, State counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, civil society leaders, journalists and celebrities.

As the military regime continues to brutalize and terrorize protesters, international oil companies, who are the largest source of revenue to the government, continue to fuel the military regime with money from oil and gas. This regime has used the oil and gas revenue to buy weapons to kill its own people -- mostly from China and Russia, including fighter jets. If the coup succeeds, the infamous Burma military regime will control all the oil and gas revenue, which will enable increased and prolonged brutality and repression. We are also gravely concerned about corruption, human rights abuses and environmental destruction resulting from oil, gas and mining projects.

Estimates indicate military airstrikes since the coup have displaced more than 10,000 civilians in Karen State along the border with Thailand.

Every year, international oil companies provide over US 3 billion dollars to the Myanmar regime by exporting natural gas to Thailand and China from four offshore gas projects, constituting half of the country's total exports. The projects are operated by Total from France (Yadana), Petronas from Malaysia (Yetegun), POSCO from South Korea (Shwe) and PTT from Thailand (Zawtika).

The 100% state-owned Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) is the only company authorized to partner with foreign companies for oil and gas operations in Burma. MOGE, the country's biggest money-maker, is responsible for signing contracts worth billions of dollars in gas production revenue.

In addition to Burma's gas export revenue, The China National Petroleum Company (CNPC) which operates the controversial dual China-Burma oil and gas pipeline, pays the Burma government at least US \$33 million every year for the oil and gas pipeline transit fees and right of way.

Therefore, OilWatch Southeast Asia calls on:

- Governments of all countries to immediately put sanctions on MOGE until a democratically-elected civilian government is restored under the new federal constitution accepted by the people of Burma.
- Governments of all countries to immediately stop providing weapons to the military regime, and to refuse to recognize diplomats representing that regime as representatives of the legitimate government of Burma.

- The operators of four offshore gas-producing fields -- Total, Petronas, PTTEP and POSCO -- to immediately cease operations until a democratically-elected civilian government is in power.
- All foreign oil and mining companies in Burma to cease explorations until a democratically-elected civilian government is in power.
- The operator of the China-Burma's dual oil and gas pipeline, CNPC, to shut down the pipelines until a democratically-elected civilian government is in power.

*OilWatch is a global network of civil society organizations in tropical forest countries working to prevent the negative impacts of oil and gas exploitation on their neighborhoods, nations and the entire planet. In Southeast Asia, members are active in Burma (Myanmar), Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Timor-Leste.*

*This statement was initiated by OilWatch Southeast Asia and is endorsed by:*

- Arakan OilWatch, Burma
- La'o Hamutuk, Timor-Leste Institute for Development Monitoring and Analysis
- EARTH, Ecological Alert and Recovery - Thailand
- AGHAM, Advocates of Science and Technology for the People, Philippines
- OilWatch Africa

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