



Warsaw, February 22, 2021

Dean
of the Warsaw Bar Association
of Advocates

Statement of the Dean of the Warsaw Bar Association of Advocates

The Dean of the Warsaw Bar Association of Advocates would like to express solidarity and support for the Independent Lawyers' Association of Myanmar (ILAM) in light of the current situation in Myanmar.

The Warsaw Bar Association of Advocates places great emphasis on respect for human rights and the rule of law. One of its statutory functions as an organization representing advocates is to defend the fundamental rights of persons under investigation, suspects, accused and convicted persons.

These rights, in particular the basic rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, can only be effectively defended by an independent legal profession, free to act without fear of reprisal for the performance of its duties.

In particular, the rights to life, liberty and security of person, enshrined in Article 3 of the Declaration, the rights to freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, enshrined in Article 5 of the Declaration, and freedom from arbitrary arrest, detention or exile, enshrined in Article 9 of the Declaration, can only be ensured if the right to independent legal counsel is also respected.

The need to safeguard these basic rights and freedoms is all the more pressing in light of the state of emergency imposed in Myanmar by the military on February 1 and the arbitrary detention of members of the Government including State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, President U Win Myint and others.

In this context, the Dean of the Warsaw Bar Association of Advocates would like to express solidarity and support for the Independent Lawyers' Association of Myanmar and calls for all Myanmar lawyers to be allowed to perform their duties without fear of reprisal, hindrance, intimidation or harassment, pressures, threats or interferences, direct or indirect, from any quarter and for any reason, in order to preserve the independence, integrity of the administration of justice and the rule of law.

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