



International Christian Peace Movement

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May 4, 2021

His Excellency
Cardinal Charles Bo
Archbishop of Yangon
Myanmar

Your Eminence

I am writing on behalf of Pax Christi Australia which is part of the International Christian peace movement Pax Christi International, based in Brussels, with consultancy status at the UN. Our members in Australia have been following the events in your country since the recent coup with great trepidation as to future possibilities for peace, democracy and the wellbeing of all the people. We have been mindful of the concerns and anxieties of many people who have come to Australia from Myanmar and we share their pain at what is happening. We were shocked and dismayed when the military seized power from the democratically elected government and imprisonment of government leaders. Your country is living with twin pandemics of Covid-19 and violence.

As a Catholic peace movement, which is open to membership of people from other denominations and other faiths, we wish to show our support and solidarity to you and other leaders in the hope that the voices of religious leaders and community will be heard for dialogue and the acknowledgment of humanity fraternity and animate communities for a peaceful response. Being the Chair of the Office for Human Development, with the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference is a powerful opportunity for this to happen. If I may make a comparison, hearing and seeing you, reminds us of the action of St Oscar Romero when as archbishop also confronted the military in El Salvador in the call for nonviolence against his people.

Pax Christi Australia is seeking ways in which we can support you and your people in these dark times of repression and violence. We grieve at the great loss of life amongst the courageous resistance and the commitment among so many people. They are signs and witnesses to hope for a peaceful world. To respond to the suffering in Myanmar, the UN has in place a mechanism known as *Responsibility to Protect (R2P)* that empowers the international community to find

*Pax Christi is a Christian worldwide movement for peace and disarmament.
It regards justice and human rights as central to peacebuilding
and fosters the spiritual dimension of peacemaking.*

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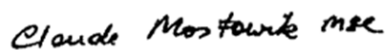
ways forward to diffuse the crisis through a complex situation, domestically and internationally. We support concerned groups that are helping create a momentum for this to happen.

We have suggested contacting our other sections in the Asia Pacific to contact corporations in their respective countries that profit from business in Myanmar and challenge them on this. We do not support sanctions against the country. It is really another name for war but as you rightly say, engagement with all parties in reconciliation is the only path to peace. The call for social friendship and fraternity from Pope Francis is so relevant at this time.

As we pray in solidarity with the people, we also pray and urge our leaders in Australia to raise their voices and work together with the leaders of neighbouring nations especially to condemn the coup, the violence it perpetrates and call for the will of the people to be heard.

Your Eminence, thank you for your courage. We stand with you and look forward to find ways support peace with justice and nonviolence in your country.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claude Mostowik msc". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

(Father) Claude Mostowik msc
National President

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