



### 56<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

*Item 4: Interactive dialogue on the progress oral report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar*

#### Joint Oral Statement

3 July 2024

The International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute, the Law Society of England and Wales, and Lawyers for Lawyers continue to condemn the ongoing atrocity crimes committed by the junta in Myanmar.

In recent months, there have been further reports of the junta targeting pro-democracy activists and human rights defenders, including lawyers and journalists. Lawyers not only face closed-door proceedings and a lack of due process but have themselves been threatened, harassed, arbitrarily arrested, and detained in relation to their work, particularly when defending political cases.

Arbitrary arrests and detention and unfair trials continue. There are reports of widespread torture and ill-treatment of detainees, including prison authorities beating female political prisoners and prolonged solitary confinement. Political prisoners face lengthy prison sentences, or the death penalty in breach of international fair trial guarantees. At least 124 post-coup prisoners remain on death row. Despite the junta releasing over 3,000 prisoners in April, less than 3% were political prisoners.

We continue to urge: 1) this Council and the High Commissioner to respond robustly to the ever-worsening situation in Myanmar, and 2) the international community to call for a moratorium on the death penalty and to use all possible avenues to hold the junta accountable for all international crimes that are being committed.

Thank you.

***This statement was delivered by:***

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