



The Davao Association of Catholic Schools Board of Trustees in its regular meeting last March 11, 2021, supports and adopts the
Statement on Solidarity with Myanmar
by the Ateneo Schools of the Philippines. (DACS-CEAP XI BOT Resolution No. 23 s, 2020-2021)



ONE WITH MYANMAR, IN THE NAME OF HUMAN FRATERNITY

(A Call to End Violence in Myanmar)

To our brothers and sisters in Myanmar, we are at your side, united in the defense of your freedom. As one family in Southeast Asia, we are with you in your noble fight to win democracy back.

Southeast Asia is home to a sundry collection of peoples which vary widely in history, demographics, culture, economy and politics. Amidst this diversity, from which the region draws its strength, there is a family of nations bound by a common humanity, united by human fraternity – the ASEAN.

As ASEAN family, we are called to mount an international campaign in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Myanmar. Since February 1, 2021, they have painfully agonized in the bloodied hands of their military forces, after their long-fought democracy has been wrested from their civilian government with the arbitrary arrest of their freedom fighter Aung San Suu Kyi and President Win Myint, the re-installation of military rule, and the systematic and widespread violence inflicted against peaceful demonstrators. With the questionable legitimacy of the military takeover, we enjoin all nations not to recognize the self-installed State Administrative Council of the junta.

The utter disregard for the rule of law, flagrant violation of human rights and the increasing violence punctuated by a Bloody Sunday (February 28) with 18 deaths and surpassed by a Bloodier Wednesday (March 3) with 38 killed on a single day speak volumes of carnage and a humanity in crisis. These cruel dispersals have claimed lives, mostly the young, and left thousands injured as the military relentlessly continues to use brute force to silence the call of its peoples to end the five decades of military rule. As Myanmar's brothers and sisters, we call for the cessation of these atrocities. The people's right to peaceful assembly must be fully respected without threats of reprisals. We

strongly urge that all political prisoners be released at once and this manifest viciousness exhibited by the military must stop now!

We call on the rest of the ASEAN community to promote the "force of law instead of the law of force"¹ in Myanmar. True to its motto "One Vision, One Identity, One Community," ASEAN must work for the common good and the protection of human rights as well as the promotion of peace and non-violence that benefits all of humanity including the generations yet unborn. Recognizing the sovereignty of Myanmar, we firmly believe in ASEAN's capacity to creatively provide avenues where all parties, in the spirit of dialogue, are able to peacefully settle the disputes even within member states. We must heed that only peace requires peace because peace can never be and will never be won by violence.

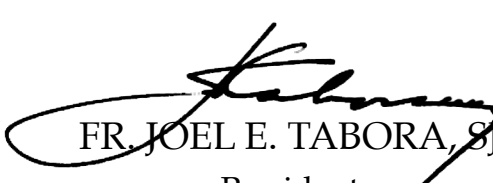
Believing in the power of collective diversities, we as ASEAN citizens, must generate our unified torrents of moral energy and rally behind the democratic aspirations of the peoples of Myanmar. From our private spaces, let us make known to the public our communal voices in different social media platforms, loud enough to touch the hearts of the military, as we gently whisper to them that in the name of human fraternity, "the culture of dialogue should be our path, collaboration our code of conduct and mutual understanding must be our method and standard."²

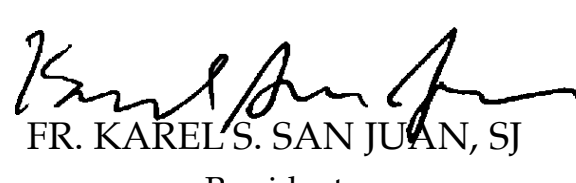
Myanmar cannot be left in isolation. We must dream with the peoples of Myanmar. We must labor in pain with them, in struggling for the restoration of democracy and in fighting for the protection, respect and fulfillment of human dignity. With them, we imagine a future of peace, freedom and justice. We unite our call to theirs for the cessation of military brutality. We stand for them and with them because in our one humanity and as one ASEAN family, we are brothers and sisters all.


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¹ Document on Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together signed by Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of Al Azhar, Ahmed Al Tayyeb in Abu Dhabi, Feb 4, 2019.
² Ibid.