

## **Muhyiddin calls on Myanmar military to release Suu Kyi, stop shooting civilians**

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Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin has condemned the Myanmar military's actions against its civilians and civil leaders, including detained elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

In a strongly-worded statement this evening, he urged the military to "change course" from violence to peace.

This comes as international newswire Reuters reported that Myanmar security forces killed at least nine people today, bringing the total death toll to at least 233.

"I am appalled by the persistent use of lethal violence against unarmed civilians which has resulted in a high number of deaths and injuries, as well as suffering across the nation.

“There is no question about it - the use of live ammunition against peaceful protests is unacceptable. This deplorable situation must stop immediately,” Muhyiddin said.

“The military leadership in Myanmar is strongly urged to change its course, and choose a path towards peaceful solutions,” he also said.

Muhyiddin called upon the military junta to free Suu Kyi and other civil leaders from detention promptly.

“I also call for the prompt and unconditional release of political leaders, including State Counsellor Saw Aung San Suu Kyi and President U Win Myint who have been arbitrarily detained since Feb 1, 2021,” he said.

The Myanmar junta has accused Suu Kyi, Win Myint and several cabinet leaders of corruption.

They remain under house arrest.

Meanwhile, the prime minister voiced his support for Indonesian president Joko Widodo’s proposal for a meeting between Asean leaders on the Myanmar crisis.

“I strongly support the statement by Widodo today and his call for the convening of an emergency Asean Summit to address the situation in Myanmar.

“Only through an open, sincere and honest discussion will we be able to enhance Asean’s role in assisting Myanmar in finding a way out of the current crisis expediently,” Muhyiddin said.

This is Putrajaya’s strongest stance yet on Myanmar’s military coup.

The military overthrew Yangon’s democratically elected government on Feb 1, sparking protests in many parts of the country.

The military has defended its coup, alleging instances of fraud in the Nov 8 election.

Despite ongoing unrest in Myanmar at the time, Putrajaya deported 1,086 of its nationals last month on Myanmar naval ships.

This was in defiance of a Malaysian court order that called for the deportation exercise to be halted.

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