

29 June 2022



**ORAL STATEMENT**

U.N. Human Rights Council 50th Session

Interactive Dialogue with U.N. Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar

**Delivered by:** Wai Phyo Myint, Asia Pacific Policy Analyst, Access Now (*via video*)

Dear Special Rapporteur,

Myanmar is sinking into the depths of the military's digital authoritarianism and people's lives are constantly at risk.

Targeted communication blackouts carried out by the military have become life threatening. Internet, mobile, and landline connections are regularly cut -- almost simultaneously as the military burns villages and commits various atrocities against the people.

Where people's resistance against the military has been most intense, the internet shutdowns have been more frequent. When the people lose connectivity in Myanmar, they cannot contact their families, get critical information for their safety, or expose serious human rights violations.

Surveillance and privacy threats are escalating every day. After ordering telecom operators and internet service providers to activate [intercept technologies](#), reports have now surfaced that the military will require IMEI number of phones to be registered.

Linking data from IMEI number and SIM card registration will potentially give the military the power to collect data needed to track and locate people anytime they want.

We call on the international community to stand in solidarity with the people of Myanmar and prioritize the situation in Myanmar as a matter of policy, and carry out concrete measures to bring the military leaders accountable for the crimes they commit.

We call on private companies to comply with their human rights obligations to take speedy, targeted and efficient steps to protect the people of Myanmar. Thank you.





**Access Now (<https://www.accessnow.org>)** defends and extends the digital rights of users at risk around the world. By combining direct technical support, comprehensive policy engagement, global advocacy, legal interventions, grassroots grantmaking, and convenings such as RightsCon, we fight for human rights in the digital age.

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