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ORAL STATEMENT

U.N. Human Rights Council 53rd Session

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

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

Dear Special Rapporteur,

The military is relentlessly expanding its arsenal of digital tools to track, target and terrorize the people of Myanmar.

It is steadily fortifying surveillance infrastructure across the country – including through installing CCTVs with facial recognition powers and activating intercept technologies across military-controlled telecommunications networks.

Meanwhile, the military has ramped up collection of biometric and other personal data.

Through revamped SIM card and IMEI registration requirements, the military can now track people's communications and location via their mobile devices.

This data is then fed and cross-checked into a national database the military is building which will rack up personal information from people's National Registration Card and household registration, such as their address, relationships, fingerprints, ethnicity, religion, photos and banking details.

As the state of emergency nears an end next month, the military can move ahead with its plan to hold sham elections. Digital tools will enable it to railroad subservient voting.

The military's procurement and abuse of these tools is being facilitated by vendors operating outside of Myanmar's borders.

We reiterate our call for a comprehensive arms embargo – including a ban on the sale or transfer of surveillance technologies, equipment, intelligence or related assistance to the military, particularly 'dual-use' and biometric technologies enabling mass and discriminatory targeted surveillance.

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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