



We are a covert group of activists working to expose and dismantle the military cartel.

Justice for Myanmar

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H.E. Þorgerður Katrín Gunnarsdóttir
Minister for Foreign Affairs

CC:

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Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee, Althingi

Mr. Sigurður Helgi Pálmason,
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2nd Deputy Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee, Althingi

27 March 2026

Iceland must revoke appointment of Honorary Consul to Myanmar over business with sanctioned entities and false legitimisation of illegal junta

Your Excellency,

We are Justice For Myanmar, a covert group of activists using research, data visualisation and reporting to expose the companies and criminals profiting from brutality, war crimes and mass-scale suffering. We are writing to appeal to you to immediately revoke the appointment of Ko Ko Latt as Iceland's Honorary Consul to Myanmar, whose letter of consular commission was accepted by the illegal Myanmar military junta's EU and Icelandic sanctioned foreign minister Than Swe on February 23, 2026.

We are gravely concerned that Ko Ko Latt's appointment falsely lends legitimacy to a military junta that has attempted to grab power through a violent illegal coup attempt, and that it undermines EU and Icelandic sanctions. As a participant in the European Economic Area (EEA), we understand that Iceland implements the same sanctions regime as the European Union, as required under Act No. 68/2023 on the Implementation of International Sanctions

and Asset Freeze. Iceland's Ministry for Foreign Affairs, to which you are the responsible minister, is the authority charged with the execution of this legislation. Iceland has formally aligned itself with successive rounds of EU sanctions on Myanmar, as documented in the EU Council's third-country alignment declarations, most recently aligning with Decision (CFSP) 2025/820 renewing the Myanmar sanctions framework.

Ko Ko Latt is the Chairman and owner of K K Myanmar Business Group (K K Myanmar), a group of companies based in Myanmar. K K Myanmar is heavily engaged in the timber sector in Myanmar, transacting with the state-owned enterprise, Myanma Timber Enterprise (MTE) that is sanctioned by the EU and Iceland. K K Myanmar additionally operates a hotel under a lease agreement with military conglomerate, Myanma Economic Holdings Limited (MEHL), that is also sanctioned by the EU and Iceland.

Instead of reputation laundering and lending false legitimacy to a military junta through representation by one of its cronies, which may breach international, EU and Icelandic law, Iceland should recognise and support the National Unity Government (NUG), the legitimate government of Myanmar that was formed in April 2021 through a democratic mandate from the 2020 election.

Falsely conferring legitimacy to the Myanmar military junta

The appointment of Ko Ko Latt awards false legitimacy to a military junta that was formed through an illegal coup attempt and has provided fodder for its propaganda. On February 1, 2021, the Myanmar military annulled the results of the 2020 elections based on false claims of electoral fraud, unconstitutionally removed the President and appointed the unelected military-appointed Vice President as Acting President, while arbitrarily arresting elected members of parliament, civil society members and journalists. Over 22,000 people, including State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, remain detained by the junta. We note that in February 2021, Iceland condemned the coup attempt and the junta's arbitrary arrests.

The military's coup attempt was launched by Min Aung Hlaing, the head of the military who was also responsible for commanding the military's genocide against the Rohingya in 2017, and for which the prosecutor's office of the International Criminal Court has recommended an arrest warrant be issued.

The coup attempt has been rejected by the Myanmar people, who continue to risk their lives resisting the junta in pursuit of federal democracy and human rights. For over five years, the junta has responded to resistance with a campaign of terror that has involved mass arbitrary arrests, torture, killings, indiscriminate airstrikes and shelling, the deliberate destruction of schools, hospitals and places of worship, rape and sexual violence, and forced mass displacement. More than 3.6 million people are estimated to be displaced nationwide, a number that is only growing with the increasing use of airstrikes by the military. According to the UN, at least 287 children were killed in 2025, making it the deadliest year for children in Myanmar since the 2021 coup attempt. Despite the unprecedented violence, the junta has failed to gain territorial control as resistance forces have advanced across the country.

The illegal and illegitimate military junta has no mandate from the Myanmar people to govern the country and has failed to gain recognition from the international community. The junta has

been unsuccessful in its attempts at taking Myanmar's seat as the Permanent Representative to the UN and therefore, does not represent Myanmar at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The seat is currently retained by Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun, who is aligned with the NUG. In June 2021, the UNGA strongly condemned the military's violence by adopting a resolution (A/RES/75/287) in which 119 countries, including Iceland, voted in favour of preventing the flow of arms into the country. To date, many countries, including EU member states, have chosen not to send ambassadors to their Myanmar missions and instead have downgraded their diplomatic relations. This is in sharp contrast to the Government of Iceland's recent actions to appoint an Honorary Consul to Myanmar.

In December 2025 and January 2026, the junta orchestrated elections that the international community has largely derided as a sham. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has yet to recognize the junta's polls. Countries and international organisations have made statements rejecting the junta's sham election, including the EU, which stated that the junta-sponsored elections "were neither free nor fair and only aimed to legitimise military rule" and further called on member states to deny the military "access to money, weapons and legitimacy" during the most recent 61st regular session of the UN Human Rights Council.

According to the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, only "a small minority of States, including Belarus, China, India, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and Sri Lanka have implicitly supported the junta's claim as the government of Myanmar by taking actions that are tantamount to recognition. These include presenting diplomatic credentials to SAC [State Administration Council] leadership, strengthening bilateral economic and military relations with the SAC". Iceland's decision to accredit an honorary consul to the illegal military junta means it has chosen to join the company of this small group of undemocratic countries that the UN Special Rapporteur listed, sharply diverging from Iceland's EU and EEA allies.

Ko Ko Latt's business involvement with EU and Icelandic sanctioned entities

Ko Ko Latt is heavily engaged in the timber sector in Myanmar through K K Myanmar. Timber is a source of revenue for the Myanmar military junta through its illegal seizure of the state-owned Myanma Timber Enterprise (MTE). MTE effectively controls the timber sector, including through licencing, harvesting, extracting, milling, and timber sales. Through MTE, the junta takes a percentage of export revenue, while it collects tax on timber sales through the Internal Revenue Department (IRD). These funds help finance junta atrocities. As a result of MTE's role in funding the junta, the enterprise has been sanctioned by the EU, US, UK and Canada. The MTE was sanctioned by the EU on June 21, 2021 under Council Regulation (EU) No. 401/2013, and, as a result, is sanctioned by Iceland under Reglugerð nr. 278/2015 (as amended).

K K Myanmar won auctions from MTE between 2022 and 2023 for a total of 5,988 tons of timber through numerous bids, making it the biggest bidder in Myanmar among more than 40 companies, according to leaked records on file with Justice For Myanmar.

K K Myanmar is a major exporter of teak to Turkey, from where sanctioned Myanmar teak often enters the EU. According to commercially available international trade data, in 2023,

2024 and 2025, K K Myanmar exported over 600 tonnes of teak to Turkey. Documents from 2025, on file with Justice For Myanmar, also show that K K Myanmar trades teak from Myanmar to Thailand and that it receives payment through the U.S., Australian and Canadian sanctioned Myanma Foreign Trade Bank. As such, Ko Ko Latt acts as a major enabler of MTE by purchasing timber from it and then exporting it out of Myanmar, funding the military junta.

In addition, K K Myanmar operates Central Hotel, which is owned by the Icelandic sanctioned military conglomerate, Myanma Economic Holdings Limited (MEHL), to which K K Myanmar make ongoing lease payments. MEHL is a key means that the military uses to generate revenue for individual generals including Min Aung Hlaing, who exercises substantial control and is a significant shareholder. MEHL also funds military units directly engaged in the commission of international crimes, which are shareholders. The conglomerate is operating in sectors across Myanmar's economy that include mining, manufacturing and banking and has derived substantial assets through corruption.

In 2019, before the coup attempt, the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar concluded that that military's economic interests enable its conduct, that human rights and international humanitarian law violations have been perpetrated by the military in connection with MEHL's business activities, and recommended that business cut ties with the military.

MEHL has been sanctioned by the EU, UK, USA, Canada and Australia. MEHL was sanctioned by the EU on April 19, 2021 under Council Regulation (EU) No. 401/2013, and, as a result, is sanctioned by Iceland under Reglugerð nr. 278/2015 (as amended).

Since the military's coup attempt, K K Myanmar has expanded into other high risk sectors, establishing K K Aviation Support Services Company Limited in 2023, whose listed services include aircraft spare parts and aviation fuel coordination. The company is up front about its ties to the junta on its website, boasting "strong communication with Government departments related to aviation business, airport authorities, customs" and "strong connection with Ministry of Transport and Communication" [SIC]. The aviation fuel sector is heavily sanctioned due to the junta's control of the supply chain and the inability of companies to prevent aviation fuel from being used in junta airstrikes. In 2023, the EU sanctioned Asia Sun Group for its involvement in the import of aviation fuel for the Myanmar Air Force and Canada has prohibited the export, sale, supply or shipment of aviation fuel to Myanmar. Due diligence would have also shown that the civil aviation sector is intertwined with the Myanmar Air Force and that civilian airlines provide parts and maintenance support to the air force to circumvent sanctions. In 2024, the U.S. Government listed aviation services, components, and fuel (alongside timber) as a sector of concern.

Under Iceland's sanctions framework, it is prohibited to make funds or economic resources available, directly or indirectly, to sanctioned persons and entities. Some of Ko Ko Latt's core business activities — purchasing timber from MTE as one of the single largest buyers, and making ongoing lease payments to MEHL — would be prohibited if conducted by any Icelandic person or entity. His involvement in the aviation sector also carries serious sanctions and human rights risks. By officially appointing Ko Ko Latt as its Honorary Consul, Iceland is conferring state endorsement on a person whose business activities directly

channel economic resources to sanctioned entities, thereby undermining the objectives of its own sanctions regime under Act No. 68/2023 and Reglugerð nr. 278/2015 (as amended). This raises urgent questions about whether adequate due diligence was conducted in accordance with Iceland's sanctions compliance requirements.

Revoking the appointment of Ko Ko Latt

We find it inexplicable that the Government of Iceland has chosen to appoint an Honorary Consul to Myanmar through the presentation of a letter of consular commission to a heavily sanctioned, illegitimate military junta that is not supported by the people and is responsible for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. It is equally concerning that the person Iceland chose was Ko Ko Latt, a crony who has deep links to the current and former military junta and has ongoing business with entities sanctioned under Icelandic and EU law, including a military conglomerate that is influenced by and benefits Min Aung Hlaing, who is directly responsible for the commission of international crimes.

While we note that the appointment process for the Honorary Consul to Myanmar began in 2020, this followed the Rohingya genocide and, at that time, routine due diligence should have excluded Ko Ko Latt because of his business with MEHL. By making this appointment, the Government of Iceland has signalled to the Myanmar people that it stands with the military junta and its cronies, and shown an alarming disregard for the democratic rights and immense, ongoing sacrifice of the Myanmar people who continue to resist tyranny. Iceland has done great harm through this appointment, which we implore you to rectify.

We urge you to immediately revoke the appointment of Ko Ko Latt, ensure that Iceland's sanctions on Myanmar are fully enforced — as implemented through Reglugerð nr. 278/2015 (as amended) — and conduct a thorough review of whether the appointment of an honorary consul with ongoing business relationships with sanctioned entities is consistent with Iceland's obligations under its sanctions framework. If relevant, we urge you to implement any governance and procedural changes across Iceland's practices for diplomatic appointments. We further request that the Ministry assess whether any economic resources connected to the consular appointment have directly or indirectly benefited sanctioned entities. We also urge you to recognise and support the NUG, which represents the people of Myanmar based on a democratic mandate.

In February 2021, Iceland joined a [Nordic joint statement](#) that referred to the coup attempt as “illegitimate” and made a commitment “to work for and support the people of Myanmar on their journey of democratic transition”. We ask that you now stand by these words.

Regards,

Justice For Myanmar