



Committee to Protect Journalists

December 8, 2025

Sent via email

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing
State Security and Peace Commission
Naypyidaw
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing,

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), an independent, nonprofit press freedom organization, writes to request your urgent attention to the matter of journalists imprisoned in Myanmar ahead of International Human Rights Day on December 10.

Your military junta currently holds [at least 27 reporters](#) behind bars and has consistently ranked among the world's worst jailers of journalists, according to data compiled by CPJ.

Among them is Myanmar Now reporter [Sai Zaw Thaïke](#), who has been imprisoned since May 2023 and is serving a 20-year sentence for sedition over his reporting on your government's response to the Cyclone Mocha disaster.

Earlier this year, he was subjected to physical abuse and torture in apparent retaliation for exposing the mistreatment of other inmates at Insein Prison, according to his publication's editor-in-chief, Swe Win.

CPJ has documented multiple cases of journalists being abused, beaten and tortured while in detention since the February 1, 2021, coup that suspended democracy and installed your military junta.

At the same time, you have acknowledged the importance of the media's checking-and-balancing role. In a 2023 speech opening the military-run Myawaddy Media Center, you said, "The media, called the fourth pillar of every country, plays a crucial role in enhancing the freedom of expression for democracy and improving the government's transparency by distributing knowledge to the people."

As your military junta prepares for elections in December, we urge you to mark International Human Rights Day by immediately releasing all journalists imprisoned under your rule. If your planned political transition is to have any international credibility, the press must be free to report as Myanmar's "fourth pillar," without fear of imprisonment for performing that democratic role.

Our advocacy is supported by more than 1,500 journalists, representing over 100 countries, who joined CPJ in a [solidarity action](#) at this year's Global Investigative Journalism Conference in Malaysia to call on governments

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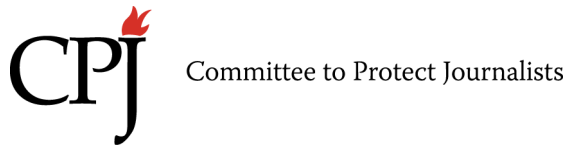
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around the world to free imprisoned journalists and end impunity for those who attack the press.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Beh Lih Yi
Asia-Pacific Director
Committee to Protect Journalists

CC:

Tom Andrews
United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar

Julie Bishop
Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar