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ஊடகத்துறை ஊழியர் தொழிற்சங்க சம்மேளனம்
FEDERATION OF MEDIA EMPLOYEES' TRADE UNIONS
Reg. No. 6598 Tel: 2302291 Fax: 2324053 E mail : fmetu123@gmail.com Web: fmetu.org

MEDIA RELEASE: Myanmar 06 February 2021

FMETU, Sri Lanka, Condemn attack to Myanmar democracy and press freedom!
Establish democratic rule immediately!

Federation of Media Employees' Trade Unions hereby issue a press statement of solidarity with our journalist colleagues in Myanmar, while condemning Myanmar military's imposition of power and the detaining of democratically elected government officials. We join with the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and its Asia-Pacific affiliates' call to safeguard Myanmar's press freedom and urge Myanmar's military to respect the established democratic process.

We of the FMETU call on Myanmar's military to allow the full and free functioning of the media and to urgently lift the coercive controls that are impeding the media's duty to inform the public, including blocking on social media platforms such as WhatsApp and Facebook.

On February 1, Myanmar's military detained over 45 politicians and activists, including state counselor Aung San Suu Kyi. Cyber security monitor Net blocks confirmed that internet connectivity in Myanmar fell by 50 percent of normal levels, indicating a centrally issued telecoms blackout order. Myanmar's state media network MRTV was unable to broadcast after the detention of government leaders. Whilst Myanmar has been plagued by internet and telephone disruptions after the military coup that poses a grievous threat to press freedom.

We express grave concerns for media workers in Myanmar attempting to report, after a number of journalists have been threatened and physically assaulted.

We stand in full solidarity with our colleagues in Myanmar. We call on the military authorities who have seized power to respect freedom of the press and to allow journalists and news organisations to go about their work without interference. The best interests of the people of Myanmar are best served by the truth, not by suppression. To this end, we urge the Ministry of Information to rescind the warning of earlier issues against 'some media and citizens' for supposedly spreading rumors and inciting to unrest" and to urgently restore citizen's access to information on all platform.

Reg No. 6598

Dharmasiri Lankapeli
General Secretary
0094 77 364 1111
fmetu123@gmail.com