NUJ(I) condemns coup and urges respect for democracy and human rights in Myanmar

H.E. Mr. Moe Kyaw Aung,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Embassy of Republic of the Union of Myanmar,
New Delhi.

Dear Mr Ambassador,

I write on behalf of the National Union of Journalists (India) affiliated to the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) Brussels to express that we have followed in dismay the appalling seizure of power by the military in Myanmar and to inform you that our organisation has pledged to do all within its power to stop the coup succeeding, ensure the release of all those detained and bring an end to the violence and harassment of the people. The perpetrators of the coup must be isolated.

In line with the positions and demands of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) to international institutions, we have called on governments worldwide to stand together in support of the people in Myanmar to:

- Publicly condemn the coup d’état in Myanmar.
- Not recognise or appease the military.
- Request the United Nations (UN) General Assembly to keep the Myanmar seat vacant until the elected representatives can form a parliament and a government.
- Support the adoption of an urgent resolution of the UN Security Council, including sanctions for the coup leaders.
- Call for a special session of the UN Human Rights Council to review the situation in Myanmar; to call for the release of everyone arrested pursuant to the coup; and to mandate the Special Rapporteur on Myanmar to monitor and issue a special report on the human rights situation, including arrests, compliance with freedom of association, protection of protestors, respect for the right to peaceful assembly and protests and the right to opinion, expression and speech, including reliance on information technology platforms.
- Implement comprehensive economic sanctions to stop any and all revenue to the military.
- Immediately cease all military cooperation and arms trade with Myanmar.
• Expose and hold to account all lobby firms employed by Myanmar’s military.
• Trace supply chains of military-run companies to ensure full application of economic sanctions.
• Support and assist all refugees from Myanmar’s military persecution.
• Protect Myanmar’s diplomatic staff in the country.
• Ask Indian companies operating in or sourcing from Myanmar to provide support to workers where operations are curtailed and also support and protection to workers protesting the coup.

We stand in solidarity with Myanmar’s workers and with the people of Myanmar and pay tribute to those brave workers taking action to reject the military takeover.

After 30 years of military dictatorship in Myanmar, we stand united with the people of Myanmar to ensure that the people’s vote is respected and that all those who have been democratically elected can form a legitimate government.

Yours sincerely,

Ras Bihari
President