

Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon. Nanaia Mahuta
Minister for Trade Hon. Damien O'Connor

20 April 2021

Dear Ministers,

I write on behalf of the New Zealand union movement to express our support of the leadership shown by the New Zealand Government in suspending all high-level contact with Myanmar and imposing a travel ban on its military leaders the week immediately after the coup.

The New Zealand union movement has deep ties to the union movement in Myanmar, thanks in part to the long-term work of UnionAid in Myanmar. We are hearing regular firsthand accounts of some of the atrocities that have occurred and continue to occur.

It is consistent and appropriate that the New Zealand government does not ratify the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade agreement as this agreement includes trade with Myanmar. We are calling on our government not to ratify the RCEP trade agreement as signing such an agreement recognises the military junta in Myanmar as legitimate.

The military junta is a brutal and illegitimate regime which has killed over 700 civilians since 1 February when they overthrew the democratically-elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi. New Zealand must do all we can to demonstrate that we do not endorse or legitimate the military junta and we must also encourage other countries engaged in the RCEP trade agreement to do the same.

New Zealand must continue to be on the right side of history, the side of justice, fairness and democracy.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Melissa Ansell-Bridges
CTU Secretary