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**Article :****EDITORIAL | Int'l Community Must Do Everything to Restore Civilian Rule in Myanmar**

Directions: Read the following article aloud.

In the wake of the coup d'état carried out by the armed forces in Myanmar, the de facto leader of the government, Aung San Suu Kyi, remains under house arrest.

In response, demonstrations against the military's actions are staged daily in various parts of the country. Even Buddhist monks have joined the protests. In a country where 90% of the population are devout Buddhists, their influence on public opinion should not be underestimated. Moreover, doctors, bank employees, public servants, and other professionals have reportedly abandoned their workplaces as the civil disobedience movement gathers steam.

The majority of Myanmar's people clearly do not support the coup. Myanmar's military must release Suu Kyi and other detainees and return power to a democratic order.

The military junta says that Suu Kyi is under suspicion of having illegally imported and used walkie-talkies. She is now reportedly facing additional charges which would allow her to be detained indefinitely.

The junta has taken great pains to say that the arrests are legally justified. But they are only fooling themselves if they think the people of Myanmar and the international community will accept this preposterous claim. Little wonder British Prime Minister Boris Johnson scoffed at the new charges against Suu Kyi as "fabricated."

A military spokesman has criticized the protest movement as a trigger for violence. Armored military vehicles have appeared on the streets of Yangon, Myanmar's largest city. In the past there had been tragic cases of military forces firing indiscriminately on demonstrators. The military must not again resort to violence to maintain power.

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Anti-coup protesters face a row of riot police in Yangon, Myanmar Friday, Feb. 19, 2021. The daily protests campaigning for civil disobedience in Myanmar are increasingly focusing on businesses and government institutions that sustain the economy. (AP Photo)  
The military ruled Myanmar for half a century following the 1960s. No doubt the junta is convinced that it can once again rely on brute force to suppress the demonstrations.

However, the citizens who have now taken to the streets to protest have experienced close to a decade of civilian government. And it was the shift to civilian government that led to the lifting of sanctions on Myanmar by Western nations and the subsequent opening up of the country. Hopefully, the military will reconsider and take these facts into account.

Keeping the detainees locked up for a prolonged period is totally unacceptable. The international community must do everything it can to curb the Myanmar military's use of force, while working for the restoration of a democratic political order in that country.

It is incredible that China and Russia refuse to label the events transpiring in Myanmar as a coup d'état. Likewise, the Myanmar military itself adamantly claims that it is "not a coup."

With China and Russia holding permanent seats in the United Nations Security Council, that body has limited its response to press reports to statements that do not use the terms "coup d'état" or "criticism." Nor does it incorporate the resolution calling for Suu Kyi's release issued by the U.N. Human Rights Council.

Myanmar shares a border with China and is important geopolitically as an outlet to the Indian Ocean. It must be aware of the constant pressure coming from Chinese expansionism. In recent years, Myanmar has tried to distance itself somewhat from its giant northern neighbor, no doubt due to concerns about becoming overly dependent on China.

If even so the junta is now looking to China for support, that would amount to an unforgivable betrayal of the people of Myanmar.

Source: EDITORIAL | Int'l Community Must Do Everything to Restore Civilian Rule in Myanmar  
<https://japan-forward.com/editorial-intl-community-must-do-everything-to-restore-civilian-rule-in-myanmar/>

## 2 Key phrases and vocabulary

Directions: First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. underestimate 過小評価する、(量や価格などを)実際より低く見積もる

You'll probably win first place, but still you should not underestimate your rivals.

2. reportedly (ニュースなどで)伝えられるところによると、～であると報告されている

He left Japan 10 years ago and is reportedly living in Australia now.

3. fool someone ～(人)をだます、欺く、ごまかす、からかう、ばかにする

When I used to think that I'd keep my young, girlish figure forever, I was really fooling myself.

3. take ～ into account/take into account ～ ～を考慮・計算に入れる

We'll take your years of loyal service into account when we make our final decision.

4. issued by ～によって発令される・支給される・発行される

You need a study permit issued by Citizenship and Immigration Canada to go to a school for more than 6 months in Canada.

## 3 Questions

Directions: Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. Who has been kept under house arrest after the coup d'état?

2. How do people in Myanmar express their protest against the coup?

3. What does the author of the article think is a difference between the people in Myanmar 10 years ago and this time?

4. How has Myanmar tried to change the relationship with China recent years?

## 4 日本語関連記事： 【主張】ミャンマー情勢 スー・チー氏を解放せよ

国軍がクーデターを起こしたミャンマーで、事実上の政府トップであるアウン・サン・スー・チー国家顧問の拘束が続いている。

軍に対する抗議デモは連日各地で行われ、国民の9割が熱心な仏教徒の同国で世論形成に大きな影響力を持つ僧侶も行進に加わった。医師や銀行員、公務員らが職場を放棄する不服従運動も拡大している。

国民の大半がクーデターを支持していないことは明らかな。軍はスー・チー氏や他の拘束者を解放し、権力を民主体制に戻さなければならない。

スー・チー氏には無線機を違法に輸入し使用した疑いがあるとされる。勾留期限切れを前に別の容疑でも訴追されたという。

あくまで法に則(のっと)った拘束だと言いたいのだろうが、これで国民や国際社会が納得すると考えているのなら滑稽である。「でっち上げ」(ジョンソン英首相)と一蹴されて仕方あるまい。

軍報道官は「抗議活動が暴力を引き起こしている」と批判した。最大都市ヤンゴンなどで装甲車が展開している。過去にはデモ隊への発砲という惨事もあった。軍は愚行を繰り返してはならない。

1960年代以降、軍は半世紀にわたり、ミャンマーを支配した。今も抗議は力によって押さえ込めると信じているのだろう。

だが、街頭で抗議する人々は10年近い文民統治を経験した。民政移管で欧米などの制裁が解かれ、国が開かれたことも知っている。認識を改めてもらいたい。

拘束の長期化は許されない。国際社会は軍の力の行使を阻止し、民主体制への復帰に向け、全力を挙げなければならない。

不可解なのは中国やロシアがこの出来事を「クーデター」と呼ばないことだ。国軍は「クーデターではない」と言い張っている。

中露がメンバーの国連安全保障理事会は報道声明を出しただけで、そこには「クーデター」も「非難」もなく、人権理事会の決議にも盛り込まれなかった。

中国と国境を接し、インド洋への出口にあたるミャンマーは、膨張の圧力を肌で知っているはずだ。近年、中国と距離を取ろうと試みたのは、過度の依存の危うさを警戒したからではないのか。

それでも、中国の擁護を期待するなら、これは国民に対する許しがたい裏切りである。