



Crisis in Myanmar (Burma): Caught between global powers USA and China?



Mass protests in Myanmar, formerly Burma, have reportedly killed at least 138 demonstrators since the military coup in early February 2021. But how can the alleged ongoing violence against peaceful demonstrators be explained, what is going on in Myanmar, and what does George Soros have to do with it?

During mass protests in Myanmar, formerly Burma, reportedly at least 138 demonstrators have been killedsince the military coup in early February. Mass media reported this on March 15, 2021, citing United Nations data. But what is the explaination for the alleged ongoing violence against peaceful protesters, and what is going on in Myanmar? Let's take a look back:

Parliamentary elections were held in Myanmar, formerly Burma, on November 8, 2020. The National League for Democracy party, or NLD for short, emerged as the clear winner. As a result, the government mandate of party leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi was extended for another five years.

However, the military refused to recognize the result. Ten million forged ballots were reportedly discovered. The election commission and the government repeatedly refused to verify the election results. As a result, the military arrested Aung San Suu Kyi and other high-ranking NLD members on February 1, 2021. The existing parliament was dissolved and a state of emergency of one year was declared. After that, elections are to be held and a new government formed. The army leadership justified the seizure of power as constitutional because the sovereignty of the state was at risk. Western politicians and media condemned the takeover and spoke of a coup.

This program is neither about justifying nor condemning the military's actions. Rather, it is about the question - ignored by Western media - of whether there could be any truth in the military's justification that national sovereignty is at risk.

While U.S. President Biden called for democracy for Myanmar, he failed to admit that the U.S. has equally interfered with Myanmar's political self-determination for years. Joseph Thomas, U.S. editor-in-chief of the geopolitical journal The New Atlas, wrote in a Feb. 3, 2021 article in the online magazine New Eastern Outlook that Suu Kyi's rise to power in 2015 was the result of decades of U.S. funding and political support. Through the National Endowment for Democracy, or NED, Suu Kyi as well as her party and a gigantic network of institutions are funded by the U.S. government. The U.S. NED website lists about 80 programs that are admittedly funded by the U.S. government in Myanmar. These range from human rights and legal organizations to media relations and environmental activities. On the one hand, Suu Kyi and her NLD party depend almost entirely on Western support and thus reflect their interests. On the other hand, according to Joseph Thomas, the U.S. administration is pursuing a much broader agenda: to attack, undermine, and weaken cooperation between Myanmar and China.

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China finances various infrastructure projects in Myanmar and provides logistical support for their development, such as the following:

- Overland roads for armoured vehicles to secure access to the Indian Ocean.
- The Chinese prestige project New Silk Road, which in the Burmese part is also known as the Belt and Road Initiative.
- China is investing several billion U.S. dollars in a huge deep-sea port project in Kyaukphyu in western Myanmar.
- A high-speed train is to connect the Chinese city of Kunming in Yunnan with Kyaukphyu. Gas pipelines have already been laid.

The U.S. administration is unlikely to be pleased with China's infrastructure projects in Myanmar. That is why, according to Thomas, it supports organizations and activities that oppose Chinese construction activities. It is also fomenting efforts for independence from China. This in turn creates instability and security threats that would slow down or stop the construction of projects by Chinese companies.

Thomas cites the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar's Rakhine state, where China wants to build the Kyaukphyu deep sea port, as another example. Tony Cartalucci, an investigative U.S. journalist specializing in geopolitics, wrote in an article that it was the deposed de facto head of government Suu Kyi's own support base that was perpetrating the violence against the Rohingya Muslim minority. This also explains why Suu Kyi has come under international criticism and been accused of remaining silent on the oppression and displacement of the Rohingya. She said she did not want to anger her predominantly Buddhist supporters. According to Cartalucci, the Rohingya crisis would be used as leverage to thwart China's economic advance and support the burgeoning U.S. and European diplomatic and military presence in the country.

It can hardly be denied that Myanmar is in the crosshairs of geopolitical interests of China and the USA. Against this background, it can be assumed that the Myanmar military is concerned about its national sovereignty and sees this as being at risk. There is one explosive detail about this: Only a few days before the military took power, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had provided the Central Bank of Myanmar with \$350 million. This was as part of an emergency cash package to combat the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Could this have been the trigger for the military's seizure of power as it increasingly lost control of the country's destiny? In any case, the military leadership installed a new central bank chief under its control as part of the takeover.

The military also reportedly issued arrest warrants for eleven employees of George Soros' Open Society Foundation (OSF) in Myanmar. This was announced on March 13 by the military-controlled television station MRTV on March 13. George Soros' foundation is accused of financially supporting the mass protests against the military. There is talk of \$1.4 million. The military said it had started to control all illegal money flows to OSF Myanmar because the foundation violated regulations for non-governmental organizations in the country. OSF's Myanmar office was opened after George Soros met with the now ousted Suu Kyi four times between 2014 and 2017. George Soros is known for interfering in the sovereignty of states, even to the point of overthrowing governments.

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Finally, a quote from Joseph Thomas on February 3, 2021. Almost prophetically, he wrote then:

If and when the protests in Myanmar take to the streets, it is almost certain that violence will follow.

The Western media is likely to forget the last few years of exposing Aung San Suu Kyi's supporters as violent and prone to ethnic attacks, again portraying them as pro-democracy protesters being victimized by a brutal military dictatorship.

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