



[The Military in Myanmar Seizes Power in a Coup as State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi is Detained](#)

Former Nobel prize winner and current leader of Myanmar Aung San Suu Kyi was detained by the military earlier this week as the armed forces executed a coup against the civilian government. Suu Kyi, who spent years under house arrest before rising to become the de facto leader of Myanmar's civilian government, led her party to election success in the country's most recent vote. However, the military has seized upon unfounded allegations of voter fraud to overthrow the civilian government and take control. In addition to Suu Kyi, the military detained dozens of politicians from her National League for Democracy (NLD) Party, including Myanmar's President Win Myint. Myanmar's military, called the Tatmadaw, has a long history of oppression, most recently making headlines for an ethnic cleansing campaign of the country's Rohingya Muslim minority.

Myanmar was ruled by the military from 1962 until 2011, when Aung San Suu Kyi and other civilian leaders began transitioning the country toward democracy. However, the military still played a significant role in the country's political system and wielded major power. Most recently, the Tatmadaw backed the National League for Democracy's opposition in the last elections. Despite this, Aung San Suu Kyi managed to guide her party to a landslide victory. The opposition claimed that there was widespread fraud throughout the voting process, and the military sided with them in these accusations. However, Myanmar's election commission has said there is no evidence to support their argument. Regardless, the Tatmadaw orchestrated their coup as a new session of parliament was about to begin and installed loyalists into key positions after detaining democratically-elected officials from the NLD.

After the detention of Myanmar's civilian leaders, army chief Min Aung Hlaing has taken control of the country. He is currently under international sanctions and has been heavily condemned by the international community for his role in the military's campaign of genocide against Rohingya Muslims. Hlaing has installed deputies into Myanmar's bureaucracy, including in the health, finance, interior, and foreign affairs ministries. He declared a one-year state of emergency, and said the country will hold a "free and fair" election at the expiry of that period. Hlaing's turn on Aung San Suu Kyi and her civilian government came as a relative surprise, particularly after she appeared at the International Court of Justice in 2019 to defend the Tatmadaw's actions in Rakhine state against the Rohingyas.

Several nations have condemned the coup, including the United States, where President Biden has threatened to reinstate sanctions on Myanmar. The United Kingdom, European Union, and Australia are among those who have called for Aung San Suu Kyi's immediate release from detention, and for the military to relinquish control of the country. At the United Nations, China blocked a security council resolution condemning the coup, calling it a "cabinet reshuffle." Some of Myanmar's Asian neighbors have also refused to condemn the Tatmadaw, saying it is an internal matter for Myanmar to handle. In Myanmar itself, the NLD has pledged to show their opposition to the coup through acts of civil disobedience. Staff at hospitals and medical centers across the country walked out, and a nighttime curfew was punctured by people blaring their car horns and banging pots and pans.