



[The Biden Administration Blacklists Additional Members of the Myanmar Military Junta](#)

Under the Biden administration, the United States has imposed sanctions on several additional officials from the Myanmar military junta in the wake of the country's ongoing deadly crackdown against pro-democracy and anti-coup protesters. The Treasury Department announced this week that Myanmar's chief of police and two military units involved in the violent suppression of peaceful demonstrations had been blacklisted. These sanctions are supplementary to those already placed on several top junta members in recent weeks. Some of Myanmar's top military officials, their adult children, and the companies they own are under a variety of prohibitions, including an asset and visa freeze. The American sanctions this week followed similar embargoes enforced by the European Union on Monday.

Since Myanmar's military seized power through a coup on February 1st, the Biden administration and its international partners have sought to pressure the junta into relinquishing power back to the democratically elected government. The military seized power after State Councilor and de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi saw her party victorious in the country's latest elections. Suu Kyi and the country's military had clashed on several occasions, and after her victory, several top military officials accused Suu Kyi and her party of electoral fraud. However, there has been no evidence to support this, and Myanmar's election commission certified the outcome of the vote as legitimate.

The individuals sanctioned by the United States include Than Hlaing, who was appointed by the junta to lead the country's police after the coup, and Lieutenant General Aung Soe, who is widely attributed to have led the junta's crackdown on peaceful protesters. Also sanctioned were the Myanmar military's 77th and 33rd light infantry divisions, both of whom were involved in the brutal suppression of protests. The aforementioned men, in addition to their adult children, have had all of their property and assets in the United States frozen, while also barring American citizens from doing business with them. Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned that more sanctions could be forthcoming, especially if the leaders of the junta continued to abuse peaceful protesters and commit grave human rights abuses against them.

The sanctions imposed this week highlight the importance of protecting peaceful protesters, as up to 250 people are thought to have been killed by the Myanmar military junta while demonstrating against the recent coup. In a report released late last week, Amnesty International accused the ruling junta of employing lethal tactics against protesters that were usually reserved for military battles. Videos from protests show security forces escalating violence and then using force to suppress the demonstrations. On several occasions, there is evidence of extrajudicial executions of peaceful protesters. If proven to be true, the junta is perpetrating major crimes against humanity on their own civilians.