

Burma

# Seoul Calls for Return to Democracy in Myanmar, Backs Shadow Govt

Sunday 29 August 2021, by [The Irrawaddy](#) (Date first published: 27 August 2021).

**The South Korean government said it will continue to support the restoration of democracy in Myanmar through close cooperation with the international community, and to engage Myanmar's parallel National Unity Government (NUG).**

The Office of the President of South Korea made the announcement in a statement on Thursday in response to a public petition signed by 268,428 people, calling on Seoul to express formal support for the NUG and to reject the military junta.

Since the Myanmar military's seizure of power from the country's democratically elected government in the Feb. 1 military coup, South Korea has been one of the countries showing support for the democracy movement and publicly calling for a return to democracy in Myanmar.

Under Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's ousted National League for Democracy government, South Korea was the sixth-largest investor in Myanmar in 2020.

In its Thursday statement, the South Korean government said it is working closely with the international community to restore democracy, peace and stability in Myanmar, and would be in "constant communication" with NUG leaders.

"The [South Korean] government will continue to make contributions, going forward, so that the Myanmar situation can be resolved in a direction to meet the aspirations of its people," it said.

It added that the country supports the wishes of Myanmar's pro-democracy activists and repeated its call for the military to stop its violence against civilians and to immediately release political detainees including State Counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Since February, 1,019 civilians have been killed by junta forces' crackdowns, while 7,589 people have been arrested, of whom nearly 6,000 are still being detained, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners.

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