FASSTT

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5 April 2022

Senator the Hon Marise Payne Minister for Foreign Affairs foreign.minister@dfat.gov.au senator.payne@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister,

Support for the request that you impose targeted sanctions on Myanmar's military leaders and their business interests

The Forum of Australian Services for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (FASSTT) welcomed the passage of the legislation in December 2021 which enable targeted sanctions to be imposed by the Australian Government against serious human rights abusers.

We believe that the use of targeted sanctions by Australia and other nations against Russian leaders and business interests in response to the invasion of Ukraine and the targeting of civilians is an appropriate means of seeking to dissuade the Russian government from the egregious actions for which it is responsible.

FASSTT also requests the Australian Government consider the use of sanctions to respond to the terrible and large-scale human rights abuses inflicted by the military leaders of Myanmar on many of their citizens over many years.

FASSTT is a network of Australia's specialist rehabilitation agencies that work with survivors of torture and trauma who have come to Australia, many of them from Myanmar. They are greatly distressed at what has happened and continues to happen to their families and communities who remain in Myanmar.

We are aware that six non-governmental organisations have written to request the Australian Government employ the new powers to impose targeted sanctions on Myanmar's military leaders and their business interests, as a number of other governments have done.

FASSTT strongly supports this request.

We note that as well as naming certain leaders who should be subject to sanctions, the organisations suggest that the government determine whether other officials and military personnel are implicated in abuses and should be sanctioned. FASSTT supports this as well. In particular, community members have advised us that a number of individuals who are "Regional Commanders" bear a direct responsibility for serious human rights violations. FASSTT also strongly supports this request.

ASeTTS: Association for Services to Torture and Trauma Survivors

> 286 Beaufort Street Perth, **WA** 6000 **t**: 08 9227 2700

Companion House

PO Box 112 Jamison Centre, **ACT** 2614 **t:** 02 6251 4550

Phoenix Support Service for Survivors of Torture and Trauma

> PO Box 259 Glenorchy, **TAS** 7010 **t:** 03 6234 9138

QPASTT: Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma

> PO Box 6254 Fairfield, **QLD** 4103 **t:** 07 3391 6677

STARTTS: Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors

PO Box 203
Fairfield, **NSW** 2165 **t:** 02 9794 1900

STTARS: Survivors of Torture and Trauma Assistance and Rehabilitation Service

> 81 Angas Street Adelaide, **SA** 5000 **t:** 08 8206 8900

Melaleuca Refugee Centre: Torture and Trauma Survivors Service of the Northern Territory

> PO Box 1226 Nightcliff, **NT** 0814 **t:** 08 8985 3311

VFST: Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture

4 Gardiner Street Brunswick, VIC 3056 t: 03 9388 0022



Yours faithfully,

Paula Peterson

National Coordinator

On Behalf of the Forum of Australian Services for Survivors of Torture and Trauma

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Phoenix Centre Level 2, 1a Anfield Street, Glenorchy TAS 7010

QPASTT: Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma 28 Dibley, Street, Woolloongabba, QLD 4102

STARTTS: Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors 152 The Horsley Drive, Carramar, NSW 2163

STTARS: Survivors of Torture and Trauma Assistance and Rehabilitation Service 81 Angas Street, Adelaide, SA 5000

VFST: Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture 4 Gardiner St, Brunswick, VIC 3056