

Myanmar's coup draws fresh international rebuke

March 29, 2021



Western figures including U.S. President Joe Biden condemned reports that Myanmar's armed forces opened fire at a funeral near Yangon on Sunday, as the country gathered to mourn at least 114 people killed in the bloodiest crackdown on protests since the coup began.

- 1. After Myanmar's military reportedly opened fire at a funeral, they drew harsh international condemnation on Monday.
- 2. That's on top of more than a hundred people killed over the weekend in the worst crackdown on anti-military protests, since the coup began two months ago.
- 3. According to news reports and witnesses, at least six children between the ages of 10 and 16 were among those killed on Saturday.
- 4. In Yangon, mourners at the Sunday funeral service of a 20-year-old student said they were forced to flee after being shot at.
- 5. No casualties were immediately reported.
- 6. Hours later, U.S. President Joe Biden condemned the military.
- "It's terrible, it's absolutely outrageous. An awful lot of people have been killed totally unnecessarily."
- 7. The U.N. Special Rapporteur for Myanmar said the army was carrying out 'mass murder'.
- 8. He called for an isolation of the junta, cutting off its funding for oil and gas, as well as halting its access to weapons.
- 9. The E.U.'s top diplomat Josep Borrell called on Myanmar's generals to stand down from what he said was
- a 'senseless path' of violence against their own people.

- 10. Myanmar's junta took power on February 1st, while elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi remains in detention at an undisclosed location.
- 11. Foreign criticism and sanctions imposed by some Western nations have failed so far to sway military leaders.
- 12. Hundreds of people have died in the on-going protests since the coup began.