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The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan

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FCCJ Statement on the Death of Myanmar Photojournalist Soe Naing

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The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan demands an independent investigation into the death of photojournalist Soe Naing, who reportedly died while in military custody in Myanmar. Soe Naing had spent months documenting the security forces' crackdown on protestors and activists, and reports suggest that he died after being arrested and subjected to a violent interrogation at a military interrogation centre in Yangon.

The FCCJ notes with concern that Soe Naing is just one of dozens of journalists who have been arrested, tortured and even killed for doing their jobs in Myanmar. Among those currently under lock and key is Aung San Lin, a reporter for the Democratic Voice of Burma, who was detained on 11 December. We call on the government of Myanmar to release all journalists arrested while working in the country, and to respect the rights of media workers to do their jobs. We again support the call by the Committee to Protect Journalists to the junta authorities to cease and desist harassing, detaining and threatening the media.

In February, the FCCJ issued a joint statement with the foreign correspondents' clubs of Thailand, Jakarta and Taiwan expressing deep concern about the intimidation and harassment of journalists by the Myanmar government. This call appears to have been ignored. The United Nations notes that over 120 journalists and media workers have been detained since the coup of February 1st in Myanmar.

The Freedom of the Press Committee

joint statement

<https://www.fccj.or.jp/sites/default/files/2021-02/FOP%20Statement%20Joint%20Statement%20by%20FCCs%20and%20Associations%20on%20the%20situation%20in%20Myanmar%2020210224.pdf>