

SIERRA LEONE LABOUR CONGRESS

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(All Communications should be addressed to the Secretary General)



CONGRESS SECRETARIAT

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20th September 2021

His Excellency

Dr. Brig. (Rtd) Julius Maada Bio

President of Sierra Leone

Office of the President

State House, Freetown

Your Excellency,

Re: Continuing Recognition of Ambassador U Kyaw Moe Tun as Myanmar's Permanent Representative at the UN General Assembly

In Sierra Leone's capacity as a member of the UN General Assembly's Credentials Committee for the 76th Session, I am writing to implore you to ensure that the current Permanent Representative (PR) of Myanmar to the United Nations (UN), Ambassador U Kyaw Moe Tun, retains his position as Myanmar's representative to the UN when you consider the case in November.

As you will know, Ambassador U Kyaw Moe Tun is the incumbent representative of Myanmar and he represented Myanmar throughout the 75th session of the UNGA after his credentials were accepted by the Credentials Committee in November 2020 and approved by the UNGA on 1 December (A/RES/75/19).

He was appointed as Myanmar's PR to the UN by the democratically elected government of Myanmar, which had held office since 2016. His credentials were renewed by the current elected government the National Unity Government (NUG), that won a landslide victory in an internationally monitored and certified, free, fair and credible general election in November 2020 but that were stolen by the Military Junta.

Since then, pro-democracy forces, including the independent, democratic trade union movement, have united into an organised Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) with various democratic representative structures. They have been met with violence from the Military with over 1,000 dead and around 8,000 arrested.

Nevertheless, the NUG and its Ministries, which is backed by Myanmar's democratic trade union is serving its citizens in areas held by resistance movements and the CDM continues with boycotts, strikes other protests. Therefore, in the name of democracy, the Sierra Leone Labour Congress strongly believes that the NUG, must take its rightful place at the UN General Assembly.

This is a matter close to the heart of every democrat in our country, Sierra Leone. We can never forget the role the General Assembly played when it rejected the attempt of our own coup leaders in 1997, to grab our country's UN seat and side with resistance movement, by recognising the credentials of President Tejan Kabbah's Government.

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Every moment the seat is left vacant is a moment that silences and damages the pro-democracy movement. The decision of the UNGA on Sierra Leone has a far-reaching positive legacy that has led to peace and democracy in our country. The people of Myanmar deserve the same.

Whilst looking forward to your cooperation, please accept the expression of my kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,

For: Sierra Leone Labour Congress

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Max K. Conteh

Secretary General