

Myanmar military blocks Facebook after coup

7th February, 2021



The Tatmadaw, the military junta that overthrew Myanmar's government on February the 1st, has blocked access to Facebook. The Ministry of Communications issued a statement saying Facebook would be

halted in order to maintain "stability". The social media giant is used by a majority of the population and the Tatmadaw sees it as a threat to its rule. In the days after the coup, a civil disobedience page that emerged on Facebook attracted over 200,000 followers. Human Rights Watch Asia said: "The Tatmadaw sees Facebook as its Internet nemesis because it's the dominant communication channel in the country and has been hostile to the military." A Twitter user said it was, "a ban on the Internet".

The Tatmadaw seized power from Myanmar's democratically elected civilian government. It immediately declared a yearlong state of emergency. The coup took place after days of tension between the military and the government. The Tatmadaw refused to accept the results of November's national election, alleging massive voter fraud. It has arrested former Minister of Foreign Affairs Aung San Suu Kyi, who is now being held in detention at an undisclosed location. Authorities filed charges against her for allegedly illegally importing six unregistered walkie-talkie radios. The military also arrested former president Win Myint. He is being charged with violating coronavirus containment measures during the election.

Sources: [reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com) / [techcrunch.com](https://www.techcrunch.com) / [voanews.com](https://www.voanews.com)

Writing

The world should act to restore Myanmar's government. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

military / junta / communications / statement / stability / social media / ban / Internet power / government / emergency / election / fraud / location / walkie-talkies / radios

True / False

- a) A coup took place in Myanmar at the end of January. T / F
- b) The Ministry of Communications wants to maintain stability. T / F
- c) Less than half of people in Myanmar use Facebook. T / F
- d) A human rights group said Facebook was a nemesis to Myanmar's junta. T / F
- e) The junta has instilled a month-long state of emergency. T / F
- f) The junta refused to accept the results of a national election. T / F
- g) Aung San Suu Kyi is being held at the Junta's headquarters. T / F
- h) The former president is accused of violating coronavirus measures. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. overthrew | a. non-military |
| 2. halted | b. appeared |
| 3. threat | c. breaching |
| 4. emerged | d. stopped |
| 5. hostile | e. chicanery |
| 6. civilian | f. unfriendly |
| 7. tension | g. reportedly |
| 8. fraud | h. toppled |
| 9. allegedly | i. friction |
| 10. violating | j. danger |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about Myanmar?
- b) What do you know about military coups?
- c) How stable is the government in your country?
- d) Why might Facebook be a threat?
- e) What do you think of civil disobedience?
- f) Would you take part in civil disobedience?
- g) Why do you think the military think they can govern a country?
- h) Can the Internet be banned?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. the military junta that overthrew | a. civilian government |
| 2. halted in order to | b. of the population |
| 3. used by a majority | c. the results |
| 4. civil | d. channel |
| 5. it's the dominant communication | e. measures |
| 6. Myanmar's democratically elected | f. Myanmar's government |
| 7. The coup took place after days | g. an undisclosed location |
| 8. refused to accept | h. maintain "stability" |
| 9. held in detention at | i. of tension |
| 10. violating coronavirus containment | j. disobedience |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you want to know about Myanmar?
- What happens in a state of emergency?
- How would you feel if there was a coup in your country?
- What do you know about Aung San Suu Kyi?
- What advice do you have for Aung San Suu Kyi?
- Where do you think this story will be in two months from now?
- What questions would you like to ask the military government?

Spelling

- the military tuanj
- maintain talitybsi
- civil einecobsdeid
- The Tatmadaw sees Facebook as its Internet eimnses
- the mninotda communication channel
- heioslt to the military
- The Tatmadaw iezsde power
- iicanliv government
- after days of osnetni
- llineagg massive voter fraud
- being held in einttdoen
- ognlviita coronavirus containment measures

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. f
6. a	7. i	8. e	9. g	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Strong Military

You think a strong military is most important for social stability. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): democracy, family or wealth.

Role B – Democracy

You think democracy is most important for social stability. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a strong military, family or wealth.

Role C – Family

You think family is most important for social stability. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): democracy, a strong military or wealth.

Role D – Wealth

You think wealth is most important for social stability. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): democracy, family or a strong military.

Speaking – Social Stability

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important for social stability at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| • Democracy | • Free Internet |
| • Religion | • Wealth |
| • Strong courts | • Equal opportunities |
| • Strong military | • Family |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.