



Open Letter to Director General Kim Carstensen, FSC international

During the last days and weeks, the situation in Myanmar has escalated in to genocide and persecution of both the general public and Trade unions in general.

The development is most horrifying and the military leadership has sent a clear message on what the future brings for the population - obey, be silence and accept the new regime.

The world has followed the progress of Myanmar, from the hard military regime and onward in to what could be the start of a democracy in the country, NGOs has assisted with resources to secure and move the progression in order for democracy to prevail.

It is no clear that that era is over.

Violence is once again the national language in Myanmar.

Myanmar has a rich stock of natural resources where the most valued being Teak.

The regulations implemented by the European Union categorizes Myanmar as a high risk country and requests that companies must prove their products are not illegally harvested. This is not enough.

The FSC must lead by example in this matter.

With the developing situation in Myanmar, it can no longer be certain that the products being exported are meeting the requirements of the certification system. Otherwise, we risk having a certification system with no credibility in the eyes of customers.

In FSCs most recent risk assessment document, Myanmar was approved, even if it indicated high risks.

However, the latest development no longer make that assessment accurate, and in the very least warrants a new assessment to fully understand the impact of the situation on the country's industry.

The boundaries for acceptable behavior is way beyond passed in Myanmar.

Therefore:

GS urges FSC international to publicly declare Myanmar as a high-risk country for violation on human and workers' rights, and that no raw materials origin from Myanmar can be approved in any FSC certification.

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