

1 [Burma Human Rights (Ko Phone Maw) Day - March 13th]

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3 **Resolution declaring March 13th as Burma Human Rights (Ko Phone Maw) Day in the**
4 **City and County of San Francisco.**

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6 WHEREAS, In 1988, Ko Phone Maw, a student leader at the Rangoon Institute of
7 Technology (RIT) was fatally shot by military security forces and became the first casualty that
8 led to the 1988 pro-democracy uprising in Burma involving thousands of students taking the
9 streets to demand fundamental human rights; and

10 WHEREAS, The widespread peaceful demonstrations led by students in the 1988
11 uprising served as a significant catalyst in elevating the crisis to an international level as
12 protesters were violently killed and imprisoned; and

13 WHEREAS, Despite the significant losses and casualties, the 1988 uprising
14 established the foundation for the possibility of a democratic future for Burma; and

15 WHEREAS, Over the past few decades, the people of Burma have been relentless in
16 their fight for democracy and freedom against military takeovers; and

17 WHEREAS, In 2011, there was a hopeful attempt to transition to civilian rule with the
18 promise of democratic elections; and

19 WHEREAS, In February 2021, following the general election where the National
20 League of Democracy party won in a landslide, the military regime initiated a coup and
21 overthrew the democratically elected members of the ruling party; and

22 WHEREAS, Mass protests erupted and armed civilian resistance forces began to
23 organize in defiance of the military's forced rule; and

24 WHEREAS, Since then, the military regime has been ruthless in their attempt to
25 suppress the opposition engaging in systemic human rights violations, war crimes, and crimes

1 against humanity in firing rocket launchers on civilians, burning villages, cutting off food
2 supplies, and shooting at fleeing civilians; and

3 WHEREAS, It is estimated that 1,676 people have been killed and more than 12,691
4 unlawfully detained with the humanitarian crisis worsening as the country is now on the verge
5 of a civil war compounded with existing ethnic conflicts; and

6 WHEREAS, Since the latest military coup, the United Nations refugee agency,
7 estimates 406,000 people have been internally displaced in Burma and estimate 32,000
8 refugee movements taking place to neighboring countries; and

9 WHEREAS, Several countries imposed targeted sanctions on the Burmese military
10 leaders, including the United States, to condemn the actions of the regime; and

11 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Bay Area is home to thousands of immigrants,
12 refugees, and asylees from multi-ethnic communities in Burma; and offers the freedom for
13 them to demonstrate unity in advocating for basic human rights and dignity with the support
14 from international communities; and

15 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors has shown support for the pro-
16 democracy movement in Burma through the passage of Resolutions and a commitment to
17 divest in companies that invest in the military regime in Burma; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors stands in solidarity with the
19 people of Burma and all those oppressed around the world in their fight for human rights and
20 justice; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco declares March
22 13th as Burma Human Rights (Ko Phone Maw) Day.

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