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TOOLS OF DIGITAL REPRESSION

March 2, 2021

Over a decade of “disciplined” democracy, the Myanmar military and the security forces under their control has built up an arsenal of digital weapons now utilised as part of the junta's brutal crackdown against protesters peacefully resisting the unlawful military coup.

An examination of recent Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Transport and Communications budgets has uncovered a host of purchases by the Myanmar police force and the domestic intelligence agency that enables the military to collect digital data, hack passwords, clone phones, track signals, gather social media intelligence, analyse photos and process large amounts of data. The bulk of this technology comes from the West.

After the military seized power in their illegitimate coup on February 1, 2021, the security forces have met the nationwide civil disobedience movement with a wave of arrests, violence and intimidation. Thirty unarmed civilians have been killed and many injured. These human rights violations are enabled by the transfer of technology to the military and its institutions, including the police.

Our Evidence

Justice For Myanmar has obtained Ministry of Home Affairs budget files from 2018-21 and Ministry of Transport and Communications budget files from 2019-21, which include budgeted items for the Myanmar

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Police Force, Bureau of Special of Investigation under the Ministry of Home Affairs and Department of IT and Cyber Security under the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

Justice For Myanmar has also obtained a procurement document from the Myanmar military related to spare parts and maintenance for Skylark drones, procured from Elbit Systems of Israel, in likely breach of Israeli law. Israel's High Court imposed a ban on weapons sales after the 2017 genocide against the Rohingya.

Justice For Myanmar has provided copies of all documents to the New York Times.

Read the New York Times investigation: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/01/world/asia/myanm-coup-military-surveillance.html>

View the spare parts proposal for Elbit Systems' Skylark drones [here](#).



An international network of businesses has enabled the Myanmar security forces to gain technology for surveillance and repression. Before the coup, the Myanmar military controlled the police and Bureau of Special Investigation. This structure meant any items transferred to the police could also be used for military purposes. Since the February 1 coup, the Myanmar military now has full and unrestricted access to technology procured by the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

Justice For Myanmar has identified a number of businesses in budgets passed by parliament. For instance, technology from MSAB (Sweden) X1 (USA), Open Text (Canada) and BlackBag/Cellebrite (USA/Israel) supports social media surveillance, and the unlocking and access of devices. Items from Lumex Instruments (Canada), Midian Electronics (USA), Hytera

(China) and Icom (Japan) are for police communications. Software from DataWalk (USA) and VMware (USA) enables big data and police IT systems.

This comes in addition to the World Bank-financed spectrum monitoring system that the military can use to track activists and journalists (see more on spectrum monitoring in Justice For Myanmar's **Nodes of Corruption** report).

Any international business that supplies arms and dual use goods to Myanmar is complicit in the shocking human rights violations inflicted on the people, including atrocity crimes, perpetrated by the military and security forces.

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Myanmar's Procurement of Tools for Digital Repression

CANADA

Open Text Corporation

Tableau Forensic Duplicator and Bridge; Tableau Forensic TD2u Ultimate Kit, Tableau TX1 Forensic Imager, Tableau Password Recovery, EnCase Forensic V8, Encase Mobile

BUDGET: MOHA 2018-19; 2019-20; MOTC 2019-20

Magnet Forensics

Magnet AXIOM and Magnet AXIOM Cloud

BUDGET: MOTC 2019-20

CHINA

Wolves Fleet

Jammer WFD-12 JAM

BUDGET: MOHA 2020-21

Hytera

HYT trunking radio; push to talk over cellular digital trunk encrypted radio system, UHF repeater; radio system

BUDGET: MOHA 2020-21

SalvationData

LB-9100 4D Dual Forensic Station, SmartPhone Forensic SPF Pro and SmartPhone Triage Acquisition SPA, Mobile Track Visualization SPA, SQLite Master-Pro Recovery

BUDGET: MOTC 2019-20

EaseUS

EaseUS data recovery software for images and MobiSaver

BUDGET: MOTC 2019-20

HONG KONG

iMyFone

Phone unlocking software

BUDGET: MOHA 2020-21

ISRAEL

Elbit Systems

Skylark drone and parts

REPAIR PROPOSAL (2019)

ISRAEL / JAPAN

Cellebrite

UFED Analytics Enterprise Platform System, Ultimate UFED

BUDGET: MOHA 2018-19

ITALY

SecurCube SRL

SecurCube BTS Tracker

BUDGET: MOTC 2019-20

JAPAN

Icom Inc

IC77300 HF with built-in scrambler

BUDGET: MOHA 2020-21

SWEDEN

MSAB

MSAB Field Version CF20, MSAB Office Version CF20, XRY Cloud, XRY PinPoint, XRY Camera

BUDGET: MOHA 2020-21; MOTC 2019-20

United Kingdom

Thruvision

Millimeter scanner TSF-C

BUDGET: MOHA 2020-21

USA

DataWalk Inc

Big data software

BUDGET: MOHA 2020-21

Leidos

VACIS 6500 mobile inspection system

BUDGET: MOHA 2020-21

American Science & Engineering

ZBV Backscatter Van

BUDGET: MOHA 2020-21

TCI International

Direction-finding processors, antenna, TCI Scorpio workstation

BUDGET: MOTC 2020-21

ARA

Long periodic antenna

BUDGET: MOTC 2020-21

Faro

Faro laser scanner Focus3D X 330 3D

BUDGET: MOHA 2020-21

Midian Electronics

VS1200 Electronic scrambler chip

BUDGET: MOHA 2020-21

VMware

ESXi licence for police e-office system

BUDGET: MOHA 2020-21

X1

Social discovery software - social media and web monitoring and collection

BUDGET: MOHA 2020-21

USA

Silicon Forensics

SiForce SMART forensic workstation

BUDGET: MOHA 2020-21

Sirchie

Digital Forensic Evidence Examination Workstation

BUDGET: MOHA 2020-21

Viken Detection

HBI-120 mini handheld scanner

BUDGET: MOHA 2019-20

Passware, Inc

Forensic Computer Passware V7

BUDGET: MOHA 2018-19

Oxygen Forensics

Oxygen Forensic Device and Extractor

BUDGET: MOHA 2018-19

Cognitech

Cognitech Trisuite Video Forensic Workstation

BUDGET: MOTC 2019-20

SysTools Inc

MailXaminer Email Forensics

BUDGET: MOTC 2019-20

MediaClone

SuperWiper Desktop Pro and SuperImager Plus 12 Rugged Forensic Field Unit

BUDGET: MOTC 2019-20

USA / ISRAEL

BlackBag Technologies Inc (owned by Cellebrite)

BlackBag MacQuisition and BlackBag BlackLight

BUDGET: MOHA 2018-19; 2020-21; MOTC 2019-20

RUSSIA

Elcomsoft

Password recovery bundle - password recovery and decryption on HP IDS EliteDesk 800 GS Tower

BUDGET: MOHA 2020-21

The above items are in addition to the military's procurement through the Ministry of Defence (see details [here](#)).

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Businesses that have provided technology to the Myanmar military and security forces must take all available measures to immediately disable access, including blocking software and denying maintenance, parts and support.

Justice For Myanmar reiterates calls for a **global arms embargo** against Myanmar as long as the brutal and illegitimate Myanmar military government remains in control and the military is outside of civilian oversight.

The international community must stand with the people of Myanmar by acting now, for justice, democracy and accountability.

Correction (Jun. 13, 2021)

An earlier version incorrectly described Magnet Forensics as domiciled in the USA. It is in fact domiciled in Canada.

Responses

DataWalk (Mar. 5, 2021)

This situation is evolving. Sign up for updates.

your@email.com

Name (optional)

Organization (optional)

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To a safe, prosperous, and free Myanmar for all.

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