

Myanmar is once again in a mess. The head of government Aung San Suu Kyi (Nobel Peace Prize in 1991) has been "arrested" by the armed forces. This was said by the spokeswoman of her party, the National League for Democracy (NLD). During the night between Sunday and Monday what was a rumor found confirmation in a statement issued by the armed forces, the military coup has been implemented. All powers were transferred to General Min Aung Hlaing. The decision was announced by the military shortly after the announcement of the state of emergency for a year and the interim presidency entrusted to General Myint Swe, who was one of the two vice presidents in office.

The military has been reporting fraud for several weeks during last November's legislative elections, which were overwhelmingly won by the LND.

More than a dozen embassies, including the U.S. embassy and the European Union delegation, had last Friday urged Burma to "adhere to democratic standards."

The party of Aung San Suu Kyi, a 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner, won a landslide victory in November. It is the second victory in a general election since 2011, when the junta that ruled the country for half a century was dissolved. The army, however, retains very important power, having control over three key ministries (Interior, Defense and Borders).

A relationship of great cooperation and friendship exists between Fim Cisl and the CTUM Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar. In January 2019, the Fim International Office participated in an exchange organized by the Associazione Italia Burmania, as part of a project that aims to raise awareness and protect workers on the consequences of the use of asbestos, which is still the order of the day in the country today.

Recall that in Myanmar working conditions are frightening, the working hours are on average 51/52 per week, the new minimum wage has been raised from 3,600 kyats (2.32 €) to 4,800 (2.9 €, Kyats = 600 (0.36 €) per hour.

Child labour is a scourge that cannot heal: 1.5 million children aged 5-15 work regularly, 600,000 of them in the worst forms of labour.

Their wages average 30 cents per hour and inspections are prohibited in agriculture and mining.

Cases of violence against women reach frightening figures: in 2016 there were 671 rapes of girls under 16 and 429 on women and 1,100 sexual abuses and in 2017 1,405 cases of rape and 305 sexual abuses.

Before the dictatorship, Burma was the most developed country in Asia, with the highest schooling rate, the leading rice exporter in Asia.

Despite the enormous natural wealth it enjoys: precious wood, gas, rare minerals, gold, precious stones (90% of rubies come from Mogok), in Burma the per capita income is \$ 702, lower than 95% OECD average and the poverty rate is 25.6% of which 85% is in rural areas.

Fim Cisl joins the appeal of the democratic countries for the rights to be respected and not to prevent the democratic transition in Myanmar. We stand by the people of Burma and our trade unionist friends in their aspirations for democracy, freedom, peace and development. The military must immediately review these actions.

