

# Analysis of Digital Authoritarianism in Myanmar: Reasons and Solutions

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# Introduction

- Aim: To introduce political theories explaining the occurrence of such oppression and analyze it from an international human rights law perspective, including potential solutions.
  - Political theories
  - Legal analysis

# Political Theories

- Dictator's Dilemma vs. Authoritarian "Cyberocracy"
  - Dictator's Dilemma: Suppressing internet hinders democratization but delays economic growth
  - Authoritarian Cyberocracy: Active internet control suppresses democratization and gains (economic) propaganda interests
- Myanmar as an example of Dictator's Dilemma: Prioritizing regime survival over economic development

# Legal Analysis

- Human rights violations using domestic law vs. Violations using extra-legal means
  - A/HRC/23/40 recognizes violations using domestic law, but also emphasizes extra-legal surveillance as well
- Importance of addressing violations using domestic law
  - Myanmar perpetuates human rights violations through ambiguous domestic legal system
  - International recognition of human rights violations using legal means (ICCPR Article 17, General Comment No. 16)

# Solutions

- Recommendations for international programs and new general comments
  - A/HRC/13/37 emphasizes capacity-building on privacy and drafting new ICCPR general comment (A/HRC/23/40 as well)
- Pressure on nations to amend domestic laws
  - Many countries are aware of and acknowledge international regulations on privacy and surveillance
- Complicity of technology companies in facilitating surveillance in Myanmar
  - Importance of recognizing corporate social responsibility within international human rights regime to prevent misuse of technologies for human rights abuses

# Conclusion

- The need for continuous operation and evolution of the international human rights regime to address both human rights violations using domestic law and violations using extra-legal means
  - International norms pressure Myanmar to amend domestic laws and work as supplementary norm when domestic laws fail
- Need for “new” corporate social responsibility in preventing usage of information technologies for surveillance