

March 31, 2017

To: Mr. Zoltán Balog
Minister of Human Capacities
1054 Budapest, Akadémia utca 3.
Hungary

CC: Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary;
Office of the Prime Minister;
Central European University

Dear Minister Balog:

As concerned partners, alumni and friends of Central European University in Myanmar, we write to express our solidarity with CEU regarding the proposed amendments to the National Higher Education Law that could endanger the academic freedom and institutional autonomy vital for CEU's continued operation as an academic center of excellence in Budapest.

In Myanmar, where higher education was under authoritarian control and isolation for decades, and where universities are finally joining the international family and making their first steps towards autonomy, and students and academics are starting to practice critical thinking in the classroom and in their research, CEU has become a steadfast partner and plays a significant role in this opening up. CEU has been among the first international universities that have initiated comprehensive development programs in support of our country's higher education reform agenda and has been consistently contributing to policy dialogue, capacity building and internationalization of our universities. As a result of these programs hundreds of academics, students and university administrators in Myanmar have benefitted from CEU's programs of support to the development of curriculum, teaching and research in the social sciences, access to the state-of-the-art learning resources and training in innovative pedagogy and research methods. CEU is actively assisting Myanmar policy bodies and universities in formulating the goals and frameworks for university autonomy and quality improvement in higher education, so vitally necessary for the modernization of our system, and links us to the most relevant international partners and national authorities in other countries who we can learn from.

CEU itself is a wonderful example for us to follow - a young institution which quickly gained international recognition and rankings for the quality of its students, teachers, research and social contribution, that is rooted in the spirit of innovation and continuous pursuit of excellence. We understand this has been possible due to the safeguards on autonomy and academic freedom that we know the universities in Europe enjoy and protect vigorously. Any damage to these freedoms in Europe would be a hard hit for higher education communities who are struggling to advance and embrace them elsewhere.

In the past five years alone, well over a hundred Myanmar students and academics have benefitted from CEU's generous scholarships and fellowships and participated in international conventions, and have become an inseparable part of CEU family. Thanks to CEU, we not only enjoyed its own first-rate programs and resources, we also discovered a

wonderful country of Hungary and a city of Budapest, their rich culture and inspiring developments of the day. CEU in Budapest became our first stepping stone into Hungary and Europe and, for many of us, into the world.

CEU's many alumni in Myanmar are leaders in the education, civil society and private sector and work with the first civilian and democratically elected government on an ambitious program of far-reaching reforms. CEU's continued engagement in Myanmar and in the modernization of higher education sector will help ensure the consistency and quality of our efforts. This university is a valued member of the international academic community and its presence in Hungary has added to the reputation of Hungarian academic life on the international stage. The government's proposed legislation to alter its statute of operation would compromise its academic freedom and set a dangerous precedent for academic life in other countries.

We trust that continued consultation between the government of Hungary and CEU will produce a constructive solution that will ensure continued successful functioning of CEU in Budapest and set a good example of resolving such disputes and maintaining the freedom and quality of higher education institutions that are vital for our common progress and prosperity.

Yours sincerely,

The undersigned:

Alumni, partners and friends of Central European University in Myanmar:

Faculty and staff

1	Dr. Aung Aye Lat	Lecturer, Department of Geography, Mawlamyine University
2	Dr. Aung Htay Min	Lecturer, Department of Psychology, Yadanabon University
3	Dr. Aye Aye Myat	Lecturer, IR Dept, University of Mandalay
4	Dr. Aye Myint Oo	Professor and Head, IR Dept, Yadanabon University
5	Dr. Cung Lang	Tutor, Department of Psychology, University of Yangon
6	Dr. Ei Ei Chaw	Lecturer, Department of Psychology, Yadanabon University
7	Dr. Ei Ei Htike	Lecturer, IR Dept, University of Mandalay
8	Dr. Han Nwe	Lecturer, IR Dept, University of Mandalay
9	Dr. Khaing Mar San	Assistant Lecturer, Department of Geology, Yandanabon University
10	Dr. Khin Khin Oo	Professor, Law Dept, University of Mandalay
11	Dr. Khin San Hlaing	Professor and Head, Department of Psychology, University of Mandalay
12	Dr. Khin San Yi	Lecturer, IR Dept, University of Mandalay
13	Dr. Khin Thandar Kyaw	Associate Professor, IR Dept, University of Yangon
14	Dr. Khin Thidar	Professor, Department of History, Mandalay University
15	Dr. Kyaw Soe Hlaing	Lecturer, Department of Psychology, Yadanabon University
16	Dr. Kyaw Soe Naing	Lecturer, IR Dept, University of Mandalay
17	Dr. Lwin Lwin Mon	Professor, Anthropology Dept, Yadanabon University
18	Dr. May Lwin Nyein	Assistant Lecturer, Department of Psychology, University of Yangon
19	Dr. Mi Mi Gyi	Pro-Rector, Pathein University
20	Dr. Min Thaug	Professor and Head, IR Dept, Dagon University
21	Dr. Mo Mo Thant	Professor and Head, History Dept, Yangon University of Distance Education

22	Dr. Moe Ma Ma	Professor, IR Dept, University of Mandalay
23	Dr. Moe Moe Oo	Professor, History Dept, Mandalay University of Distance Education
24	Dr. Mra Kyawt Wai	Lecturer, Department of Marine Science, Mawlamyine University
25	Dr. Myint Myint Htay	Professor, IR Dept, University of Mandalay
26	Dr. Myo Min Tun	Assistant Lecturer, Department of Marine Science, Mawlamyine University
27	Dr. Naing Win	Lecturer, Department of Geology, Yadanabon University
28	Dr. Nan Aye Saung	Lecturer, IR Dept, University of Mandalay
29	Dr. New New Aung	Lecturer, Department of Psychology, University of Yangon
30	Dr. Nilar Kyu	Professor and Head, Department of Psychology, University of Yangon
31	Dr. Nwe Nwe Htun	Associate Professor, IR Dept, Mandalay University of Foreign Languages
32	Dr. Nyein Nyein San Ei	Associate Professor, IR Dept, Yadanabon University
33	Dr. Nyo Nyo	Professor and Head, Geography Dept, University of Mandalay
34	Dr. Ohnmar Khin	Professor and Head, Law Dept, University of Yangon
35	Dr. Phyu Phyu Khaing	Professor, Department of Psychology, Taung Gyi University
36	Dr. Pyi Soe	Lecturer, Department of Psychology, Taung Gyi University
37	Dr. San San Htwe	Lecturer, Department of Law, Taung Gyi University
38	Dr. San San Khine	Associate Professor, Dept of International Relations, University of Dagon
39	Dr. Sann Moe San	Lecturer, Department of Psychology, Myitkyina University
40	Dr. Saw Lin	Professor, Philosophy Dept, University of Mandalay
41	Dr. See Zein	Lecturer, Department of Psychology, University of Yangon
42	Dr. Soe Soe Nwe	Professor and Head, Department of Psychology, Taung Gyi University
43	Dr. Soe Win Aung	Associate Professor, IR Dept, University of Mandalay
44	Dr. Su Su Naing	Lecturer, IR Dept, University of Mandalay
45	Dr. Thandar Soe	Professor and Head, English Dept, University of Mandalay
46	Dr. Than Than Maw	Lecturer, Department of Psychology, University of Yangon
47	Dr. Thet Tun	Professor and Head, Department of Geology, Kyaukse University
48	Dr. Thet Yu	Professor and Head, IR Dept, Mandalay University of Foreign Languages
49	Dr. Thi Thi Soe San	Associate Professor, IR Dept, University of Mandalay
50	Dr. Thida Aye	Professor, IR Dept, University of Mandalay
51	Dr. Thidar Aye	Professor, Department of English, University of Yangon
52	Dr. Thida Tun	Professor and Head, IR Department, University of Mandalay
53	Dr. Thidar Htwe Win	Professor and Head, Anthropology Dept, University of Mandalay
54	Dr. Thin Thin Aye	Professor, IR Dept, Yadanabon University
55	Dr. Thin Thin Kyi	Lecturer, IR Dept, University of Mandalay
56	Dr. Thwin Pa Pa	Professor and Head, Law Dept, University of Mandalay
57	Dr. Tin Moe Zar Chi	Lecturer, Department of Geology, University of Yangon
58	Dr. Tin Zaw Oo	Lecturer, Department of Geology, Yadanabon University
59	Dr. Tint Nwe Soe	Associate Professor, IR Dept, University of Mandalay
60	Dr. Tun Shwe	Professor, Philosophy Dept, University of Mandalay
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63	Dr. Ye War Myaint	Lecturer, Department of Psychology, Taung Gyi University
64	Dr. Yin Yin Lin	Lecturer, Department of Psychology, University of Mandalay
65	Dr. Yu Yu Htwe	Lecturer, Department of Psychology, Taung Gyi University

66	Dr. Yu Yu Khaing	Lecturer, Department of Psychology, University of Mandalay
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68	Dr. Zaw Win Ko	Assistant Lecturer, Department of Geology, University of Yangon
69	Dr. Zin Min Myo	Lecturer, Department of Psychology, University of Yangon
70	Daw Estar Cung Lun Haug	Lecturer, Department of Psychology, Taung Gyi University
71	Daw Htay Htay Win	Lecturer, IR Dept, University of Mandalay
72	Daw Khin Myo Hlaing	Lecturer, Department of Law, Taung Gyi University
73	Daw Khin Wai Soe	Lecturer, Department of Psychology, Mawlamyine University
74	Daw Kyi Kyi San	Lecturer, IR Dept, University of Mandalay
75	Daw Moe Moe Win	Lecturer, Myanmar Institute of Information Technology, Mandalay
76	Daw Mya Thin Kyi	Assistant Lecturer, Department of Marine Science, Mawlamyine University
77	Daw Myat Sann Nyein	National Project Coordinator, eLibrary Myanmar Project
78	Daw Myo Swe Ei	Lecturer, Department of Geology, Kyaington University
79	Daw Nan Ni Ni Soe	Lecturer, Department of Psychology, Mawlamyine University
80	Daw Nan Su Myat Thin	Assistant Lecturer, Department of English, Mawlamyine University
81	Daw Shwe Nan Wai	Assistant Lecturer, Department of Geology, Lashio University
82	Daw Shwe Zin Nwe	Assistant Lecturer, Department of Geology, Yadanabon University
83	Daw Swe Swe Tun	Lecturer, IR Dept, University of Mandalay
84	Daw Thida Nyut	Lecturer, Department of Marine Science, Mawlamyine University
85	Daw Win Win Nwe	Assistant Lecturer, Department of Marine Science, Mawlamyine University
86	Daw Zin Mar Kyu	Asst Lecturer, Information Science Dept, Computer University (Lashio)
87	Htet Min Lwin	(MA (PS)(CEU), Forum of Federations , Panna Institute
88	Khin Mar Thein	Lecturer, Department of Psychology, Taung Gyi University
89	Khin Maung Soe	Lecturer, Chindwin College
90	Kyi Pyar Hnin	Lecturer, Department of Psychology, Mawlamyine University
91	Thein Lwin Myint	Tutor, Department of Psychology, East Yangon University
92	U Aung Myo Thu	Demonstrator, Department of Geology, University of Mandalay
93	U Kyaw Min Khaing	Assistant Lecturer, Department of Geology, University of Yangon
94	U Kyaw Win Aung	Assistant Lecturer, Department of Psychology, University of Yangon
95	U Thant Zaw Moe	Assistant Lecturer, Department of Psychology, East Yangon University
96	U Zar Ni Swe	Lecturer, Department of Geology, Lashio University

Students

1	Arkar Aung	2 nd year Honors, International Relations, University of Mandalay
2	Aung Khant	2 nd year, Department of Psychology, University of Yangon
3	Aung Ko Ko Chit	2 nd year, International Relations, University of Mandalay
4	Aung Myo Thu	2 nd year, Department of Psychology, University of Yangon
5	Aye Chan Myae Kyi	2 nd year Honors, Political Science, University of Mandalay
6	Aye Mon Mon Kyaw	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
7	Aye Myint Kyi	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
8	Aye Nyein Thant	2 nd year, International Relations, University of Mandalay
9	Chaw Ei Phyu	2 nd year, University of Medicine (Mandalay)
10	D D Sai Kywe Yone	4 th year, International Relations, University of Mandalay
11	Eaint Honey Aung Myint	3 rd year, International Relations, University of Mandalay

12	Eint Myat Chit	2 nd year Honors, Political Science, University of Mandalay
13	Ei Theingi Phyo	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
14	Han Thu Yin	2 nd year Honors, International Relations, University of Mandalay
15	Hein Htet	4 th year, Political Science Dept, University of Mandalay
16	Hlaing Pwint Phyu	1 st year Honors, International Relations, University of Mandalay
17	Htae War Thein Tan	2 nd year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
18	Htet Htet Htun	4 th year, International Relations, University of Mandalay
19	Htet Htet Lin	2 nd year Honors, International Relations, University of Mandalay
20	Htet Htet Maw	3 rd year, International Relations, University of Mandalay
21	Htet Ko Naing	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
22	Htet Myat Ko Ko	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
23	Htet Pwint Phyu	3 rd year, International Relations, University of Mandalay
24	Htet Shwe Ye Oo	2 nd year, Department of Psychology, University of Mandalay
25	Ingyin May	2 nd year Honors, Political Science, University of Mandalay
26	Ja Bawk Htwe	1 st year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
27	Khine Marlar Mya Hnin	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
28	Khant Eain Hmue	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
29	Khin Nyein Chan	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
30	Khin Phyu Phyu Thin	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
31	Khin Swan Htet	1 st year, International Relations, University of Mandalay
32	Kyaw Thu Hein	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
33	Kyi Yadanar Oo	2 nd year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
34	Kyi Zar Hein	4 th year, International Relations, University of Mandalay
35	Kyway Kyu Kyu Aung	2 nd year, International Relations, University of Mandalay
36	L Phyo Myat Thwe	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
37	Le Le Htay	1 st year, Department of Psychology, University of Mandalay
38	May Khin Phone	4 th year, International Relations, University of Mandalay
39	May Myat Noe Khin	3 rd year, International Relations, University of Mandalay
40	May Phoo Cho	2 nd year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
41	May Phyu Sin	3 rd year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
42	May Thet Hmu Kyaw	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
43	May Thinzar Myint	3 rd year, International Relations, University of Mandalay
44	May Thiri Khin	4 th year, International Relations, University of Mandalay
45	May Thit Oo	2 nd year, International Relations, University of Mandalay
46	Min Khant Thu	2 nd year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
47	Min Thu Oo	2 nd year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
48	Moe Honey	1 st year Honors, International Relations, University of Mandalay
49	Myat Thadar Phyu	2 nd year Honors, International Relations, University of Mandalay
50	Myo Myint Khaing	2 nd year, International Relations, University of Mandalay
51	Myo Thet Htun	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
52	Nan Mwe Khan	1 st year Honors, IR Department, University of Mandalay
53	Nan Tharaphy Aye Lwin	2 nd year Honors, International Relations, University of Mandalay
54	Naw Ku Htee Htet Dwe	2 nd year, Department of Psychology, University of Mandalay
55	Nay Htet Kyaw	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay

56	Nayyi Wut Hmon Phyu	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
57	Nilar Win	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
58	Nway Ei Hlaing	2 nd year, Department of Psychology, University of Mandalay
59	Nwe Wadie Soe	2 nd year Honors, International Relations, University of Mandalay
60	Nyein Nyein That Aung	4 th year, Political Science, University of Yangon
61	Nyi Nyi Kyaw	2 nd year, International Relations, University of Mandalay
62	Pan Su Pyate Eain	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
63	Poe Ei Ei Zaw	3 rd year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
64	Poe Ei Khine	2 nd year Honors, International Relations, University of Mandalay
65	Sai Swit Dee	2 nd year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
66	San Thawdar Htun	1 st year Honors, International Relations, University of Mandalay
67	San Yadanar Soe	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
68	Shun Le Hmu	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
69	Shun Le May	4 th year, International Relations, University of Mandalay
70	Shwe Yee Htun	2 nd year Honors, International Relations, University of Mandalay
71	Shwe Zin Ei	3 rd year, International Relations, University of Mandalay
72	Sin Phyu Maw Than	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
73	Su Myat Wai Hlaing	2 nd year Honors, Political Science, University of Mandalay
74	Su Pyate Sone	2 nd year Honors, International Relations, University of Mandalay
75	Thandar Hlaing	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
76	Thaw Zin Lin Htet	2 nd year, University of Medicine (Mandalay)
77	The Wutyi	4 th year, International Relations, University of Mandalay
78	Thein Twe Tar	2 nd year, International Relations, University of Mandalay
79	Theingi Swe	2 nd year, Department of Psychology, University of Mandalay
80	Thet Htar Shwe Sin	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
81	Thet Thet San	2 nd year, Department of Psychology University of Yangon
82	Thurain Kyaw Moe	1 st year, International Relations, University of Mandalay
83	Thwe Thwe Aye	1 st year, Department of Psychology, University of Mandalay
84	Tin Mar Wai	2 nd year Honors, Political Science, University of Mandalay
85	Tin Zar Lin	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
86	Wai Phone Naing	2 nd year, International Relations, University of Mandalay
87	Waiyan Lin Htet	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
88	Wint Htae Aung	4 th year, International Relations, University of Mandalay
89	Wutyi Aung	2 nd year Honors, Political Science, University of Mandalay
90	Yamin Swe	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
91	Yamin Theint	2 nd year Honors, Political Science, University of Mandalay
92	Ye Nan Ku Taung	2 nd year, Department of Psychology University of Yangon
93	Yein Taint	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
94	Yin Muiar Soe	2 nd year, International Relations, University of Mandalay
95	Yin Myo Thu	4 th year, International Relations, University of Mandalay
96	Yu Yu Moe Thet	3 rd year, International Relations, University of Mandalay
97	Yunn Mi Mi San	MSc student, University of Computer Sciences (Mandalay)
98	Zar Chi Htun	2 nd year Honors, International Relations, University of Mandalay
99	Zaw La	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay

100	Zaw Min Oo	1 st year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
101	Zin Ko Lat	4 th year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
102	Zin Mar Min	2 nd year, Political Science, University of Mandalay
103	Zu Wadi Htun	2 nd year Honors, Political Science, University of Mandalay