



Concerned about colleagues in Myanmar

Wageningen researchers and students who have worked in Myanmar have been very worried since the army seized power there early this year. More than 19,000 university staff are said to have been sacked, and people have been arrested. How can you help from here?

Researcher Bas Verschuuren could only look on in horror as one of his Burmese colleagues was arrested and sentenced to three and a half years in prison for protesting against the junta. 'This man always helped us tremendously with arranging research projects. Now you really want to do something in return for him and others there.' Scholars for Myanmar is trying to help by distributing an open letter calling on governments to recognize the National Unity Government, the democratically elected government of Myanmar. That would bring the civil war to an end, says the letter, which has been signed by more than 100 academics with links with Myanmar.

Until recently, Master's student of Forest and Nature Conservation Shamyi Lanjouw was in Myanmar for an internship. 'Just yesterday they broke into the office looking for someone. No one can do fieldwork at the moment; it is just too dangerous. If you know anyone in Myanmar, send them a message and ask how they are doing. Then at least they'll feel someone sees their plight. Or donate to funds that offer help locally.' [CJ](#)