

Response from Cloudflare

22 February 2021

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited Cloudflare to respond to the following items:

- [“Cloudflare must terminate its services for the Myanmar military,”](#) International Campaign for the Rohingya and Burma Campaign UK, 8 February 2021
- [“Cloudflare: Stop shielding the Myanmar military,”](#) International Campaign for the Rohingya, No Business with Genocide, and Crane Center for Mass Atrocity Prevention

Cloudflare sent the following response:

“Cloudflare provides security, reliability, and performance services to more than 25 million Internet properties worldwide. Cloudflare believes in making cybersecurity services easily accessible, offering both free and paid services that can be accessed online. The broad availability of Cloudflare’s free services helps mitigate the risk posed by malicious cyber activities, and improves the reliability and performance of the Internet for everyone online. This approach also helps ensure that a variety of important but underfunded organizations are protected from cyberattack, including civil society and independent journalism organizations, election infrastructure, and political campaigns. Indeed, the UN Special Rapporteur has identified the types of services that Cloudflare provides as critical to ensuring access to the Internet, and a “bulwark against network disruptions” and denial-of-service attacks.

Cloudflare is committed to respecting human rights under the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. As an observer in the Global Network Initiative, Cloudflare engages with a variety of stakeholders on how best to advance freedom of expression and privacy globally, including how to evaluate the specific human rights impacts associated with access to our cybersecurity services.

Cloudflare is also committed to conducting business in compliance with applicable U.S. laws and regulations, including U.S. sanctions administered by the U.S. Treasury Department. Consistent with those regulations, we are legally prohibited from providing services to individuals or organizations subject to sanctions under U.S. law for serious human rights abuse, such as Min Aung Hlaing.

Cloudflare continues to monitor developments in Myanmar closely, and will act consistent with our commitments and legal obligations.”