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| |  | | --- | | Each week, some of our Councillors and interns share a selection of articles, analytical pieces, videos and podcasts about what is happening in the world of international affairs. This week, our Councillors explore conditions in Myanmar, tensions over Taiwan and US climate policy.  Disclaimer: The views expressed below by Councillors and interns are their own. The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales does not take policy positions. | |

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| |  | | --- | | A person in a military uniform  Description automatically generated with medium confidence | | [**Reports of Use of Torture by Myanmar's Military Junta**](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-08-02/myanmar-junta-torture-allegations-amnesty-international-report/101288000)  Following the executions last week of pro-democracy activists in Myanmar, Erin Hadley [**reveals**](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-08-02/myanmar-junta-torture-allegations-amnesty-international-report/101288000) widespread reports of torture by the military junta. He foregrounds the story of US journalist, Nathan Maung, who describes the distressing detention he experienced in early 2021. This story, and many similar, have been [**reflected**](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/files/2022-07/15%20Days%20Felt%20Like%2015%20Years%20Amnesty%20report%20Embargoed%20020822.pdf?VersionId=8BPKk18BMR6vnKK0QO6yQ9zNYhh.d5Bg) in a new report released by Amnesty International, ‘ 15 Days Felt Like 15 Years’. The report collates interviews with survivors of torture, describing all the arrests and detentions documented as ‘in violation of international human rights’. Nearly 15,000 people have been arbitrarily arrested by the military, and at least 114 death sentences have been imposed since February 2021. While the military junta has continued to receive widespread [**condemnation**](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-07-26/myanmar-activists-executed-junta-wont-release-bodies/101269088) from Australian politicians and academics, Amnesty’s report and the stories shared by Hadley provide valuable insight into the scale of the use of torture in Myanmar.  The report calls for greater accountability for the crimes committed by the Myanmar military, asking the international community to stop ‘turning a blind eye’ to the suffering.  Image credit: [**Vadim Savitsky**](http://mil.ru/) | |

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| |  | | --- | | A person in a white suit  Description automatically generated with low confidence | | [**Proposed Pelosi Taiwan Visit Sparks Controversy**](https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202207/1271752.shtml)  The most pressing international affairs issue to watch this week is the visit to Taiwan by US House of Representatives speaker Nancy Pelosi. Since such a visit was first canvassed in [**the international press**](https://www.ft.com/content/09669099-1565-4723-86c9-84e0ca465825), Chinese officials and the state media have been thundering against it and the level of belligerence is rising daily.  The [**Global Times**](https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202207/1271752.shtml)says that Pelosi has "lit the match" and risks burning to death.  The trip has highlighted that there is a very real risk of military confrontation between the US and China.  If that were to happen, Canberra would have to decide whether or not to invoke the ANZUS alliance and come to America's aid. Leading US Asia expert William Overholt has a good analysis of the situation in [***Global Asia***](https://globalasia.org/v17no2/cover/ukraine-offers-no-easy-lessons-on-taiwan_william-h-overholt).  Donald Trump has [**weighed in**](https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/108731190332757267), accusing "Crazy Nancy" of causing "great friction and hatred".  Not everyone thinks that the sky may fall in.  Taipei-based US scholar and business advisor Ross Feingold, writing (in Chinese) in the China Times, [**argued**](https://www.chinatimes.com/opinion/20220730002614-262104?chdtv) that a visit would be a "non-event".  But it seems that the Taiwan government is very concerned and has upgraded its security warnings to citizens about precautions to take in the case of air attacks.  Image credit: [**U.S. Embassy Ghana**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/usembghana/) | |

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| |  | | --- | | In addition to our Councillors, we invite our interns to share with you what they have found insightful or interesting in the world of international affairs over the past week. This week, our new interns Grace Papworth and Oliver Owens explore the development dimension of the Australia-US alliance and the politics of Russian gas exports.   Disclaimer: The views expressed below by Councillors and interns are their own. The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales does not take policy positions. | |

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| |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Grace Papworth. Grace is currently in her fourth year of a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts (Politics) at the University of Sydney. Grace has experience in the legal profession as a law clerk and has worked within the political sphere in the office of US Senator Tim Scott (US Congress) and Senator Andrew Bragg (Australian Senate). | |

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