



Press Release

Myanmar dissociates itself from the HRC's resolution calling for the dispatch of an international Fact Finding Mission

The resolution on the situation of human rights in Myanmar tabled by the European Union was adopted without a vote at the meeting of the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC), held on 24 March 2017 in Geneva.

In the resolution, the Human Rights Council welcomes the progress made by Myanmar towards achieving political and economic reform, democratisation, national reconciliation, good governance and the rule of law, as well as its efforts to promote and protect human rights and combat corruption. At the same time, the HRC resolved to dispatch an independent international Fact Finding Mission to Myanmar.

Myanmar has been making every effort to seek practical and lasting solutions to the deeply complex and challenging situation in Rakhine State. Within weeks of taking office, the government established the Central Committee on Rakhine to promote peace, stability and development in the State. An independent advisory commission headed by former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Aman was also set up to assist the government in finding long-term solutions.

In response to the armed attacks on police border outposts and headquarters in October and November 2016 and subsequent allegations of human rights abuses, the government formed an Investigation Commission led by

Vice President U Myint Swe to look into the causes of those incidents and allegations.

The government takes allegations of human rights abuses seriously. The Commission has spent several weeks visiting affected areas of Rakhine State and has just returned from its investigatory trip to Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Where there are credible allegations of abuses, witnesses will be invited to travel to Myanmar under international protection to give evidence in legal proceedings in open court.

The situation on the ground is both complex and challenging. The establishment of an international Fact Finding Mission would do more to inflame, rather than resolve the issues at this time. It is also not in accord with the situation on ground and the national circumstances. Given this, and the government's very real and serious efforts to build stability and find lasting solutions, Myanmar has dissociated itself from the resolution as a whole. A number of the HRC member countries including China and India have also dissociated themselves from the resolution or voiced their opposition to the establishment of such mission.

The government of Myanmar is fully committed to the promotion and protection of human rights. It will be steadfast in its commitment to advancing human rights for the benefit of all people in Myanmar. To this effect, the government will set out a clear action plan for the prompt implementation of the recommendations made by the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, led by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, in its interim report last week.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Nay Pyi Taw

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