

**Statement released by Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons,
Ministry of Home Affairs, The Union of the Republic of Myanmar on allegations of US
State Department in its Trafficking in Persons Report 2011**

The US Department of State issued 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report on 27 June 2011. The report placed Myanmar in Tier 3 as a country that does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so by using the standards of US's Trafficked Victim Protection Act 2000 (TVPA). The tier placement is made without recognizing the efforts and progress made in combating human trafficking. Myanmar has been placed in Tier 3 for 11 years, continuously.

Myanmar has considered combating human trafficking as a national course since 1997 that reflects the strong political will of the government to tackle the issue. Since then, Myanmar has made significant efforts and achievements such as, becoming a member of United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (Palermo Protocol), enacting Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law (2005) that is the basic requirement for member countries, development and implementation of National Plan of Action, establishment of the National Institution to combat human trafficking from central level to township level, formation of anti-trafficking task forces, becoming a member of regional MoUs namely, Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiatives against Trafficking (COMMIT) MoU and Asia Regional Trafficking in Persons (ARTIP) Project, development and implementation of bilateral MoUs neighbouring countries such as China and Thailand.

The analysis of the whole report shows obviously that instead of making fair and objective assessment, double standards employed in rating countries that are in favor of US Government and countries that are not. The countries that are being placed in Tier 3 – Myanmar along with Iran, Venezuela, Cuba, North Korea, Libya, Sudan, Lebanon, Zimbabwe, Yemen, the countries that are not in favour of the Government of United State.

The efforts and progress made in Myanmar in combating human trafficking has been recognised by fellow GMS countries, UN agencies, international organisations and civil society. Moreover, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Trafficking has mentioned COMMIT Process as the good practice and effective regional mechanism based on the achievements made in Greater Mekong Sub-region by the COMMIT MoU member countries that includes Myanmar.

The biased allegations made with complete ignorance of the actual progress made in Myanmar and imposed economic sanctions contradicts not only the policy of US Government that is to encourage countries around the world to fight human trafficking but also those economic sanctions have resulted in vulnerable jobless individuals who are desperate for jobs become prey for traffickers.

Therefore, the Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs strongly rejects the allegations and statements mentioned in 2011 US Trafficking in Persons Report that do not reflect and recognize the significant efforts made in elimination of trafficking. At the same time Myanmar urges US Government to make fair and impartial assessment in preparing their Trafficking in Persons Report in the future.

Regardless of the Tire 3 placement made by US government in 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report, Myanmar will continue its efforts in combating human trafficking as a national course.

The Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons