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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrives at the meeting of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Gov't rejects UN Rakhine investigation

The decision yesterday by the United Nations Human Rights Council to send an international fact-finding mission to investigate allegations of abuse by security forces against Muslims in Rakhine state was rebuffed by Myanmar's diplomatic and political leaders as well as government officials from China and India.

"The establishment of an international fact-finding mission would do more to inflame, rather than resolve the issues at this time" according to a statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs released late last night. "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".

Myanmar's permanent representative to the United Nations in Geneva, U Htin Lynn, speaking before the decision was taken by consensus, rejected the move as "not acceptable". The Maung-taw Investigation Commission had just interviewed alleged victims who fled to Bangladesh and

would issue its findings by August, he said.

The U.N. Human Rights Council adopted a resolution without a vote, brought by the European Union and supported by countries including the United States, that called for "ensuring full accountability for perpetrators and justice for victims".

“The establishment of an international fact-finding mission would do more to inflame, rather than resolve the issues at this time.”

A UN report issued last month, based on interviews with 220 members of Rakhine's Muslim community among the 75,000 who have fled to Bangladesh since October, said that Myanmar's security forces have committed mass killings and gang rapes of Muslims in northern Rakhine State in a campaign that "very likely" amounts to crimes against humanity and possibly ethnic cleansing.

U Htin Lynn, referring to the resolution, said: "Such kind of action is not acceptable to Myanmar as it is not in harmony with

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NRPC Meeting 1/2017 commences

THE meeting of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (1/2017) was held yesterday at 10 am at the NRPC in Nay Pyi Taw with NRPC Chairperson and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivering a speech.

Attending the meeting were NRPC Vice-Chairperson (2) Dr. Tin Myo Win, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Nai Thet Lwin and U Tun Tun Oo, Lt-General Yar Pyae, Lt-Gen Min Naung, U Khun Maung Thaung and Chief Secretary U Khin Maung Tin.

The State Counsellor then gave advice on matters presented at the meeting and concluded the meeting by delivering a closing speech.

The NRPC meetings are held every two weeks.—Myanmar News Agency



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