

The emblem of the State of Myanmar is a golden symbol on a red background. It features a central five-pointed star above a circular disc containing a map of Myanmar. The disc is flanked by two mythical lions (Singha) and is surrounded by ornate floral and leaf patterns. Below the emblem is a banner with the text 'သမ္မတမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်' (Republic of the Union of Myanmar) in Burmese script.

- (1) We will bear allegiances to the Federal Union of Myanmar and the people.
- (2) We will bear allegiances to the fallen heroes who sacrificed their lives during the fight for democracy.
- (3) We will protect and defend the lives, properties and livelihoods of the people.
- (4) We solemnly pledge that we will sacrifice our lives in building the Federal Union of Myanmar.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

National Unity Government

Weekly Press Update (9/2023)

No 9/2023

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27th February, 2023

Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management

1. Over 500 million MMK distributed in January

The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MOHADM) has distributed humanitarian support to the sum of 507.15 million MMK in January of this year. The Ministry stated that the funds are used to provide internally displaced persons (IDPs) with raincoats, sweaters, and blankets while efforts are being made to reconstruct the residential areas that were subject to the SAC's arson attacks. The Ministry has also built bomb shelters in over 700 schools with the support made across the country. <https://bit.ly/41mhkTT>



2. Terrorist SAC continues its atrocities across the country

22/02/2023

The SAC's campaign of atrocities in Sagaing, Magway, Bago, Tanintharyi Region, Mon, Karen, and Shan State rages on and from 11th to 20th Feb resulted in the destruction of 1,838 civilian homes and the incineration of 32 temporary camps, health clinics, and schools, and 2 shops and a barn used by IDPs.

MOHADM stated that the indiscriminate and atrocious air strikes using fighter jets have resulted in 4 civilian deaths and 11 civilians and 3 monks being injured while raids into villages caused 5 deaths and an 80 year old nun's body was found burned. <https://bit.ly/3luTHQI>

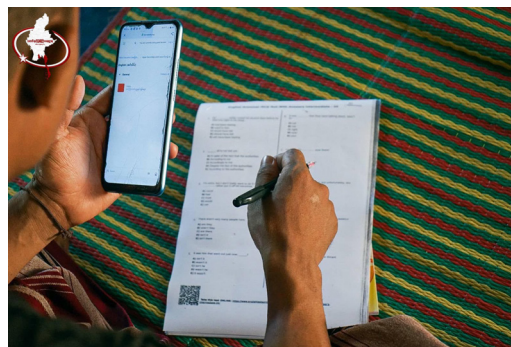


3. Civilians and PDF members prepare to take matriculation exam

18/02/2023

Members of the People Defence Force (PDF) and Local Defence Force (LDFs) and other civilians are preparing to take the matriculation examinations which are planned to be held by the Ministry of Education. The Ministry stated that CDM teachers and university students are tutoring those who will take the test 2 hours every day.

<https://bit.ly/41tqgXt>



4. Defence Ministry announces its military attack in Magway Region

20/02/2023



The People's Defence Forces successfully attacked SAC police stations, check points and military columns in Kantkaw, Mindon, and Thayet Township, Magway Region.

<https://bit.ly/3lywD37>

Ministry of Education

5. NUG and NUCC says mother-tongue based education system be supported

The Ministry of Education and the National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC) jointly announced that under years of military dictatorship, ethnic language rights and development were ignored, and literature and curricula representing ethnic languages and culture were not allowed to be taught in schools. The Ministry and NUCC will develop and implement a mother-tongue based education system, while providing necessary support in adopting regional education policies across the country. <https://bit.ly/3Z0xVuI>

Ministry of Health

6. NUG announces vacancy for medical professionals in clinics/hospitals in interim state or federal units

23/02/2023

The Ministry of Health is now receiving job applications for medical professionals to work at clinics or hospitals in the interim state/federal units. Applicants chosen or approved by the staff selection committee are expected to attend necessary training and work in different parts of the country as assigned by the Ministry and interim state/federal units. <https://bit.ly/3Z3HTvw>

7. NUG pledges to bring justice for the Rohingya issue

22/02/2023

During the plenary sessions titled violation of human rights for Rohingya communities in Myanmar held in Geneva, Human Rights Minister U Aung Myo Min stated that the Ministry pledges to bring justice for the Rohingya issue both locally and internationally. <https://bit.ly/3krJ9cN>



Republic of the Union of Myanmar
National Unity Government
Ministry of Human Rights



Remarks by H.E. Aung Myo Min, Union Minister of Human Rights
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum/US Permanent Mission discussion on the
human rights situation of the Rohingya

Geneva, 22 February 2023

Good afternoon,

I am very grateful for the invitation to join today's discussion on the human rights situation of the Rohingya in Myanmar. This week will mark six years since the Myanmar military's 2017 atrocity campaign against the Rohingya people in Rakhine state – a deliberate and systematic offensive of mass murder, disappearances, gang rape, arson and forced displacement.

Lives destroyed, histories erased. Crimes that the United States after careful, rigorous investigation and scrutiny, has determined amount to genocide.

I extend my appreciation to Ambassador Taylor and to Ms. Naomi Kikoler of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum for hosting today's important gathering.

Last April, I was invited to the Holocaust Museum to see its new exhibit entitled *Burma's Path to Genocide*. I was devastated by what I saw in the Museum's permanent collection and in the Myanmar exhibit – the horrors that we as humanity have reportedly inflicted on people because of their ethnic, racial or religious identity. I expressed my deep shame that my country was featured.

As Union Minister of Human Rights, I can say that the National Unity Government shares this shame and acknowledges that historic exclusionary and discriminatory policies, practices and rhetoric against the Rohingya laid the ground for the atrocities that followed. Nor was 2017 a one-off event. Crimes against the Rohingya and other Myanmar minorities have recurred in waves over what the Museum's exhibit rightly called 'a history of persecution'. That is, a history of dehumanisation.

In 2023, hundreds of thousands of Rohingya remain displaced from the country to which they belong. And a growing number, restricted to camps and denied any foreseeable prospect of a

return to their homes and livelihoods in Myanmar, have resumed treacherous sea voyages and placed their lives in the hands of traffickers. This shows just how desperate they are.

Last December, my Ministry issued a public call to ASEAN and its Member States to provide emergency assistance to Rohingya refugees stranded at sea, while urging that under no circumstances should they be refouled to Myanmar where they face certain persecution by the junta. During that same month, I issued a statement expressing shock and outrage at the discovery of 13 male bodies, believed to be trafficked Rohingyas, dumped on a roadside in Yangon.

In short and to be frank, despite the generosity of our neighbours, there has been no discernible improvement in the lives of the Rohingyas. They are no closer to returning home. There has been no justice or reparations. And not only do the perpetrators remain at large, these war criminals have scaled up their atrocities as an illegal military junta. These circumstances, as you are all very aware, present substantial challenges. Another million Myanmar nationals have been displaced by the junta since its failed power grab in 2021. But this does not remove the responsibility that the National Unity Government has to the Rohingyas and to other minorities.

So in the short time that I have left, I will discuss some of the steps that we are taking.

1. First, to truly recognise the extent and scale of the atrocities against the Rohingyas, we must end the history of denial. Truth-telling and accountability are an essential part of this. The NUG continues to pledge its cooperation with national and international accountability mechanisms:

- We have made an Article 12(3) Declaration under the Rome Statute granting the ICC jurisdiction
- We have pledged our cooperation with the ICJ in the Gambia case, remain determined to represent Myanmar in the case, and we will accept and comply with whatever the Court decides
- We are sharing information with the IDDM and we are pushing countries to use universal jurisdiction to prosecute alleged perpetrators in their national courts.

2. Second, we are committed to bringing the Rohingyas home in voluntary, safe and dignified ways. But we also have existing responsibilities right now. I had a series of meetings with Rohingya representatives including women and youth from Refugee camps in Cox Bazar, and their needs are clear and immediate. The NUG is providing online education opportunities to Rohingyas youth and we will identify additional focus of support in consultation with the community and our friends in the Government of Bangladesh.

3. Third, we will strengthen Rohingyas voices and are in the process of appointing a Rohingyas representative within the Government. We will also establish a consultative mechanism to ensure Rohingyas input to the development of NUG policies, positions and programs.

4. Fourth, there must be a complete overhaul of laws that are discriminatory, chauvinistic, and that have been historically used to curb the exercise of fundamental freedoms and to stifle dissent. Consistent with the NUG's 'Policy Position on the Rohingyas in Rakhine State' issued in June 2020, the NUG is working with the National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC) and the Committee Representing Pyaw Oo Hluttaw (CRPH) to develop a new *Citizenship Act* that bases citizenship on birth in Myanmar or birth anywhere as a child of Myanmar citizens, and to repeal the *Race and Religion Protection Laws* of 2015.

5. Finally, I firmly believe that the NUG – as the legitimate representative of Myanmar – has an obligation to report to the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms on the human rights situation in Myanmar, on the concrete steps that we are taking including in support of the Rohingyas, to account for our shortcomings, and to be clear in our requests for technical support and assistance.

I am here in Geneva to engage with states and to push for a strong resolution on Myanmar at HRC52. But I am not welcome at the Council. For two years, Myanmar's seat at the Council has sat empty, despite our Ambassador in New York retaining his position and privileges at the General Assembly. It is within the power of the HRC Bureau and its Members to correct this inconsistency and to restore Myanmar's seat to the people.

I thank you all again, most particularly Ambassador Taylor and Ms. Kikoler, and I look forward to our discussion.
