The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Attorney General’s Office
Press Release
13th Waning of Pyatho 1381 M.E.

(22 January 2020)


1. The Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) was established by the Office of the President on 30 July 2018 to investigate the allegations of human rights violations in Rakhine during the internal armed conflict between Myanmar’s Defence Services and the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) in 2016-2017.

2. The Independent Commission of Enquiry has investigated the allegations of human rights violations and related issues following the attacks. The Union Attorney General’s Office has received, from the President, the comprehensive report submitted by the Independent Commission of Enquiry to the President with around 450 pages including 21 annexes.

3. The Commission has concluded, based on evidence it has collected, that members and collaborators of ARSA, members of the Myanmar’s security forces and civilians committed crimes such as killing of civilians, disproportionate use of force, looting of property, and destruction of abandoned homes of Muslims in Maungdaw, Buthidaung and Rathedaung Townships during the internal conflict in Northern Rakhine, and that the Commission has found particularly serious loss of life in the villages of Min Gyi (Tula Toli), Chat Pyin and Maung Nu.

4. The Union Attorney General’s Office will coordinate and cooperate with the relevant departments and organizations to ensure further criminal investigations and, where the evidence is compelling, prosecutions.

5. With regard to criminal conduct described in the report, the Union Attorney General’s Office will be providing information on the progress of investigations and prosecutions.

Union Attorney General’s Office

UEC, USIP co-organize workshop on prevention of hate speech, fake news, wrong information on social media

THE Union Election Commission jointly organized a workshop with the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) on the prevention of hate speech, fake news and misleading information.

Chairman of UEC U Hla Thein made an opening remark on the workshop, saying the important role of social media in modern communications, its advantages and challenges including hate speech, fake news and wrong information.

He remarked on the needs for prevention of these problems in the country where the social media users have amounted to 21 million in 2020, compared with 7 million in 2015.

The UEC Chairman also called for officials concerned with the General Election and the participants at the workshop to prevent disputes coming out of hate speech and fake news, as well as the enforcement of code of ethics.

While the UEC is publishing its activities and directives on state-owned media and UEC website, the commission will also effectively use its Facebook page to spread information and voter education for 2020 General Election. The UEC is working together with the Ministry of Information, Myanmar Media Council and Facebook Team for prevention of hate speech, fake news and wrong information.

Mr. Jason Tower from the USIP extended greeting at the workshop which will be held until 25 January.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Rakhine IDPs receive 20,000 relief aid bags from India

INDIA government offered 20,000 relief aid bags, totally worth of US$235,456, to the internally displaced persons in Rakhine State.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye attended the donation ceremony held at a jetty warehouse in Sittway, the capital city of Rakhine State, yesterday.

The Union Minister expressed thanks for the donations of India government which signed MoUs to provide the $25 million worth assistance in five years, including construction of 250 houses in

Handing Over Ceremony

Relief Materials

MINA Shwezar, Nantthartaung villages, and Kyeinchaungtaung. He added that the 12 project agreements will be signed in this financial year.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu also expressed thanks for the donations.

Indian Ambassador to Myanmar then handed over the donation items and explained assistance of India in education, health and agriculture sectors of Myanmar. The government is also working with Singapore-based the Asian Philanthropy Circle (APC) and Mainly I Love Kids (MILK) to help Rakhine people learn skills and vocational education.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs receives Bangladeshi Ambassador

USOE HAN, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr. Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar, at 16:30 am on 21 January 2020 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the Permanent Secretary and the Bangladeshi Ambassador discussed on matters pertaining to the holding of the Fifth Meeting of Myanmar-Bangladesh Joint Working Group (JWG) on the repatriation of displaced persons in Dhaka, Bangladesh. At the meeting, Permanent Secretary reiterated Myanmar’s readiness to receive the verified displaced persons in accordance with the MoU between Myanmar and Bangladesh and apprised him of the government’s efforts for creating conducive environment for the returnees in cooperation with the partner countries and ASEAN-ERAT team.—MNA
Make return of IDPs a success through cooperation

By Dr. Myint Zan

February 2020 is to us as

Looking historic present us the 111th birthday of the late UN Secretary-General of the United Nations. U Thant was born on 19 January 1910 in Panywaung, in Shan State and passed away in New York, United States on 25 November 1974.
The 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations, Jacinto Perez de Cuéllar was born in Lima, Peru on 19 January 1919 and celebrated his 100th birthday on 19 January 2020. Current head of the Secretariat-General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres of Portugal had sent messages of felicitations on behalf of all United Nations on his distinguished and long career professor’s 100th birthday.

In the complementary sense of the world’s 1st U Thant and Perez De Cuéllar were ‘accidental Secretary-General’. U Thant was the permanent representative of Burma (now Myanmar) to the United Nations before his tragic death in a plane crash near New Delhi, India on 27 September 1961.

Before Dag Hammarskjold passed away the then UN Secretary General was proposing to ‘testing’ that instead of a single Secretary-General there should be a ‘group of Secretaries-General’. It was in this sense that the UN (now to be called United Nations Secretary-General, UNG) was, to speak from the West or Western bloc (‘First World’), one from the East or Eastern bloc (‘Second World’) and a third from the newly independent (‘Third World’).

In his posthumously published numerous messages View from the UN(1984, Double Day publishing) U Thant recounted how in his second term when ended his career he found that the United Nations could not find a successor and that he ‘fell terribly sick’ when the United Nations Security Council constitutionally appointed his successor (Kurt Waldheim of Austria) U Thant in his final address to the General Assembly of the United Nations General Secretary General of the United Nations Secretary-General’s post at the time of the election of a third term (1964) Notwithstanding this announcement all the deadlines were extended for the seeking of permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (U Thant was to stay on for a third term on hisLDAP and especial6y refused to relax.

U Thant wrote in his mem- sor of the United Nations, in his second term ended when called the ‘creation’ (so to speak) of the United Nations Security Council (U Thant was to stay on for a third term and with his catusingly and spe- for the UN Secretary-General. Perez De Cuéllar was at the helm of the United Nations when quite a few other international events of note and significance occurred. There was the Argentine invasion of Malvinas/Falkland Islands which was opposed by the British naval and military forces (April to June 1982) which Perez, who had been made Prime Minister of Peru (25 November 1974 and in his native Burma later Myanm5i, had to govern the nation over 30 years (‘ignored’ or ‘historically unimportant’), until then 2011. In a speech in the Burmese language at the United Nations General Assembly around 2013 then President Perez De Cuéllar of Peru said: ‘I hope for peace in the world. We will be able to a third term in his career even if it was not a success’. and to this Perez had added ‘I was a man of principle. The graciousness if not magnanimity and the open-mindedness of Perez De Cuéllar in 1969 during the fifteenth anniversary celebrations of the United Nations Thant’s Nobel Peace Prize was the only UN Secretary-General Perez De Cuéllar said when he stated that the 1991 Gulf War (‘War of the first Gulf War’) triggered by the late Saddam Hussein’s invasion of Iraq and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 678 (1991) authorizing the use of all necessary means, ‘forced military force to evict Iraq from Kuwait’ was ‘not a United Nations resolution’. According to this contrast this candidate statement with any of his predecessors. Perez De Cuéllar’s explanation of the candidate’s statement when asked if any UN resolution could be considered as a ‘war of aggression’ up to 2003 which during the war of Iraq 2003 (2003) or to whether the 2001 World War II was ‘illegal’ or ‘unlawful’ under the 1945 United Nations Charter the then UN Security Council at the time of the 1991 Gulf War, Perez De Cuéllar had almost reluctantly, ‘shyly’ that it was ‘not a United Nations resolution’. Perez De Cuéllar’s explanation of the candidate’s statement when asked if any UN resolution could be considered as a ‘war of aggression’ concluded: ‘Until recently I had always regarded the resolution of the United Nations Charter’.

Commemorating U Thant’s 111th and Perez De Cuéllar’s 100th Birthday

U Thant’s Nobel Peace Prize was for rule of law and his adherence to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States. Perez De Cuéllar’s Nobel Peace Prize was for his ‘distinguished service for the promotion of international peace and cooperation among nations especially for the Organization of American States and for the Latin American Community’. The two Nobel Peace Prize laureates were the 40th and 41st Secretary-General of the United Nations respectively, with Perez De Cuéllar’s Nobel Peace Prize being the last Nobel Peace Prize awarded by the UN. U Thant was the longest-serving Secretary-General of the United Nations, serving two terms as the UN’s Secretary-General.

To work on the peace process till success is achieved based on the rule of law and for rule of law is multifaceted. It is optimistic that we will be partly optimistic in the coming years in conviction that the rule of law will be the major focus of world leaders in the years to come.

In stark contrast, the former Nobel Peace laureate Perez De Cuéllar who died of natural causes on 19 January 2020, had a life of work and dedication that was in line with the values espoused by the UN.

It is an honour to give my respectful appreciation and tribute in commemoration of the late U Thant’s 111th birthday and Perez De Cuéllar’s 100th Birthday.

Daw Myint Zan (Professor Emeritus, Multimedia University, Malaysia)