UPR WG-10, January 27, 2011, am

Intervention of Canada

BURMA

Canada welcomes the participation of the delegation headed by his Excellency the Deputy Attorney General Dr. Tun Shin. We take note of the government's stated commitment to human rights and would welcome responses to some of our advance questions.

Canada has serious and long-standing concerns about the human rights situation in the country.

Canada recommends that the government promptly bring its domestic legislation and constitution in line with international standards, and remove restrictions on fundamental freedoms including freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and association, freedom of the press, and religious freedom.

Canada recommends that all persons who are detained solely on the basis of their peaceful political activity, ethnicity or religion be immediately released.

Canada also recommends a thorough reform of the judiciary to ensure compliance with due process and fair trial standards, including independence and impartiality.

We recommend that the government promptly investigate all allegations that military personnel and other officials have committed serious crimes and violations of human rights including extra-judicial killings, recruitment of child soldiers, torture, sexual violence and forced labour.

Canada recommends that the government ensure that law enforcement officials receive necessary training, including on human rights standards, domestic legal protections, and the appropriate use of force.

Canada also recommends that the government cooperate with the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the country by providing unimpeded access to visit and report on the human rights situation throughout the country.

Finally, Canada recommends accession to the Ottawa Convention (Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and Their Destruction);

In closing, Mr President, we would have the following question: What legislation does the leadership of the newly formed parliamentary structures plan to table to address gaps in domestic human rights legislation, and lack of participation in international human rights instruments?

Thank you Mr President.