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National Security Advisor urges careful use of terms “ethnic cleansing” and “genocide”



U Thaung Tun, National Security Advisor. PHOTO: MNA

The National Security Advisor has urged international communities not to use the terms “ethnic cleansing” and “genocide” lightly regarding the issue in northern Rakhine State.

U Thaung Tun, National Security Advisor of Myanmar, made the remark at the United Nations

Security Council in New York recently, after the terms were used in statements made by the UN Secretary-General and the representatives of the member states of the council.

“There is no ethnic cleansing and genocide in Myanmar. Ethnic cleansing and genocide

are serious charges and they should not be used lightly. It would be a sad commentary of our times if we allowed emotions to cloud our view and assert that what is happening in Rakhine is ethnic cleansing without first undertaking a legal review and making a judicial determina-

tion,” said the National Security Advisor.

The current situation was precipitated by the attacks of Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) terrorists on 30 police outposts in the early hours of 25 August that resulted in

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Over 100 teachers to be appointed in Maungtaw and Buthidaung

MORE than 100 new teachers will be working for the Maungtaw basic education department to replace teachers who were working in northern Rakhine State when the terrorist attacks of 25 August occurred. The teachers they replace have been transferred to their home districts.

The new teachers will be undergoing training soon in Mrauk-U and Kyawpyu, according to Maungtaw District Education Department.

“Starting from 4 and 9 October, training for primary assistant teachers will be conducted in Mrauk-U and Kyaukphyu — 57 for Maungtaw and 44 for Buthidaung — to eventually be appointed as school teachers.

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Teachers at a school in Sittway two days before the announcement of the appointment of 101 new teachers for Rakhine State. PHOTO: MIN THIT



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Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, centre, delivers cash assistance and bags of rice to villagers in northern Rakhine State affected by the 25 August terrorist attacks. **PHOTO: MNA**

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker, donors deliver aid to villagers in N-Rakhine

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and donors, together with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, are continuing the donation of rice and cash assistance to villagers in northern Rakhine State.

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and donors went to marshaling points yesterday morning at Shweyinaye, Waithali, Bawdikone, Shwe Baho, Kaingyi, Mawyawaddi villages and provided 988 bags of rice and Ks100,000 per village for 27 villages.

Of the donations made to the Ministry of Social Welfare,

Relief and Resettlement, 2,305 households from 27 villages who remain in their own villages after attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists were provided with a cash assistance of Ks10,000 per household and relevant administrative officials accepted the cash assistance. Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and donors then met with officials from General Administration Department in the Maungdaw Township General Administration Department meeting hall to enquire and discuss about the difficulties faced and provided cash assistance to the administrative departments. Amyotha Hluttaw

Deputy Speaker said regional security, administrative, education, agriculture, health, and social matters will be addressed together with the Rakhine State government.

Rakhine State Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Minerals U Kyaw Lwin, Maungdaw District General Administrative Department Deputy Commissioner U Ye Htut, Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Ministry head of Rakhine State U Kyaw Min, Deputy Head of Rakhine State education department U Maung Tun Win and officials accompanied the donating group, it is learnt.—Naing Linn Kyi, Thant Zin Win ■

Foreigner barred from launching drone near Shwedagon

A MAN who launched a drone above the Shwedagon Pagoda on Sunday was given a warning by pagoda trustees.

At about 9:30 pm on Sunday, a Lebanese man named Yeghig Janboulion, 22, son of Krikor Janboulion was found

launching a drone from the parking lot of Shwedagon Pagoda.

Upon seeing the drone flying near the Tuesday corner (South East) of the pagoda, a member of the security team shot it down with an anti-drone

device.

The Lebanese man was informed by the trusteeship board that the pagoda was a restricted area for drones.

The drone was handed over to U Win Naing, a member of the pagoda trusteeship. —GNLM ■

Private sector import of capital goods declines by \$90 million

THE import of capital goods by the private sector exceeded US\$2.8 billion over the first six months of this fiscal year, a decrease of over \$90 million matched against the same period of last year, the Commerce Ministry reported.

This time last FY, the private sector imported \$2.88 billion worth of capital goods from partner countries.

The total import of capital goods as of 22 September was valued at more than \$3 billion, including almost \$350 million from the government sector. Despite a decrease in private sector imports of capital goods, imports by the government increased to \$245 million than that of last year.

Myanmar predominantly imports from foreign trade partners luxury products, personal

goods, construction materials, farming equipment, industrial raw materials, household utensils, foodstuffs, electronic devices and medicine.

According to ministry statistics, the country also imported \$3.39 billion worth of intermediate goods and \$2.18 billion worth of consumer goods over the past six months of this FY. —Swe Nyein ■

Statement by the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission with regard to the terrorist attacks that occurred in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships of Rakhine State

Statement No. (11/2017)

1. A team from the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission visited Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships from 24 to 29 September 2017 to look into the terrorist attacks that occurred in the townships.
2. During the course of the trip, the team visited five Bangali villages, seven ethnic villages and one Hindu village as well as one Bangali, seven ethnic and two Hindu refugee camps and six monasteries. The team independently interviewed 71 Bangalis, 33 ethnic people, 13 Hindus and also met the authorities concerned and the security personnel.
3. Based on the interviews, it was found out that the ARSA terrorist group recruited young people from the area, intimidated them and trained them in terrorist activities. The group executed people who resisted the recruitment and also killed villagers whom they suspected of giving information to the government and all those who spoke out against them when interviewed by the media and responsible personnel. The ARSA group also went around the villages of the ethnic minority groups terrorizing them and executing the ethnic minorities and Hindus en masse. On top of that the group carried out terrorist attacks on the outposts of police forces carrying out security duties, outposts of Border Guard Forces and ethnic villages.
4. After cessation of conflict with the terrorists, the team from the Commission learnt on 28 September 2017 that about 1,000 Bangalis had gathered at the coastal area near Alal-Tham-Kyaw village to proceed to other side. The team went over to meet the villagers. According to the villagers, friends and villagers who had gone over to the other side made phone contacts with them and told them to come over as the conditions there were much better. The villagers also wished to go over to other side due to lack of security and shortage of food. Although the Commission team explained that the government was providing security, food and shelter, the villagers told the Commission team that arrangements had already been made for transportation and that they would like to go over to the other side of their own volition.
5. In order to ensure peace and tranquility and not to infringe sovereignty and to prevent similar occurrences of violation of human rights in Buthidaung and Maungdaw areas of northern Rakhine State, the Commission would like to recommend that necessary security measures, transportation, healthcare, education and social and economic developments should be provided immediately. In addition, development of tourism industries and fisheries should also be implemented systematically. For the security of the region additional police stations, police outposts and Border Guard Forces outposts should be established as deemed necessary.
6. To alleviate food and clothing shortages, healthcare and social difficulties for Bangalis who had not fled and wished to live peacefully, a headcount should be taken immediately and temporary recommendation papers under the authorization of the regional authorities should be issued to grant access to freedom of movement related to livelihood. It is recommended that provisions and medicines urgently needed should be provided for all living in the region.
7. It is required to systematically scrutinize all returnees to ensure that ARSA terrorists who had committed terrorist attacks should not be on the list when accepting the returnees and to give emphasis on long-term peace and stability in the rehabilitation process.—Myanmar National Human Rights Commission ■

Nationalisation of Unused Confiscated Land in Yangon Region to be discussed

By Ko Moe

Matters concerning the nationalisation of unused confiscated land and buildings in Yangon will be discussed at the Yangon Region Hluttaw meeting to be held on 11 October.

In the Yangon Region Hluttaw meeting held yesterday, U Hla Htay, Yangon Region Hluttaw representative of Mingalar Taungnyunt township constituency 1, put forward a motion urging the Yangon Region Cabinet to nationalise properties which did not comply with prescribed rules and laws after scrutinising unused confiscated land and state-owned buildings.

Due to the approval of Yangon Region Hluttaw concerning the motion, it was learnt to be seconded on 11 October.

"Nearly all state-owned buildings and land plots in Yangon Region were monopolised

at very low prices by private businessmen and those closely related with authorities concerned by buying, hiring and receiving grants in dubious ways and means. Some of them were transferred to sub-tenants at high prices", said U Hla Htay. Some land and buildings are still in their original conditions without being used. It has been learnt that there are a lot of unused land plots and buildings in the Yangon Region industrial zone.

"Now is the time for the creation of job opportunities to be implemented. Had these lands and buildings been implemented as planned, national income and job opportunities for our citizens would have been achieved more than expected", U Hla Htay said.

The motion was discussed in support by U Nyi Nyi, representative of Dagon Myothit township (south) constituency 1, Yangon Region, it was learnt.

Over 100 teachers to be appointed in Maungtaung and Buthidaung

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In some villages, village-appointed teachers will be appointed as helpers. While making arrangements to appoint junior Assistant teachers (JATs) in substitution for this academic year, the terrorist events took place." said U Ohn Myint, the head of the Maungtaung District Basic Education Department.

It has been learnt that there are 404 high schools, middle schools and primary schools in Maungtaung District, including 16 state high schools in Maungtaung and 10 state high schools in Buthidaung.

In the previous academic year 2016-2017, female teachers of state middle schools who came to serve in Maungtaung District from other areas were transferred to their locations of origin. Now in their places, teachers living in Maungtaung District were appointed in substitution, it has been learnt.

"In C, D and E level schools, male teachers were appointed. Schools situated in town are designated as A level, with those within reach of homes in a day's time designated B level, those within the reach of homes in week's time designated C level,

and those within the reach of homes in a month's time are designated as D level. Schools situated at the transit camps are designated as E level", U Ohn Myint said.

The head of the Maungtaung Basic Education Department said that 182 schools in Maungtaung and 221 schools in Buthidaung had to be closed following the 25 August terrorist attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), a terrorist group. On September 12, 18 schools were reopened in Maungtaung —17 schools in Maungtaung and the Nanthataung philanthropic school — and 20 schools were reopened in Buthidaung, U Ohn Myint said.

Schools will be reopened in three categories—first priority, second priority and third priority. Currently, as a priority programme, 34 schools in Maungtaung and 20 schools in Buthidaung were designated to be opened in September, October and November. In December, January and February, a second priority programme will be launched, with those to be reopened at the last stage designated as third priority, it was learnt.—Naing Lin Kyi ■

National Security Advisor urges careful use of terms "ethnic cleansing" and "genocide"

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the deaths of 12 security officers, one immigration officer, one soldier and a number of innocent civilians. Security forces were obliged to defend themselves, government officials said.

"We feel deeply for the suffering and plight of all affected communities—Rakhine, Muslim, Daingnet, Mro, Thet, Maramagyi and Hindu. They are all victims of violence and terrorism", U Thaung Tun said.

Myanmar is one of the most ethnically diverse countries in the world. It is home to 135 officially recognised ethnic groups, each with its own distinctive culture and adherence to a variety of religions, including Buddhism, Islam, Christianity and Hinduism. Religious groups have been living in harmony throughout the



National Security Advisor U Thaung Tun delivers his address to the UN Security Council at the UN in New York City. PHOTO: MNA

country's history. "The situation that we face today is due to terrorism and is not based on religion," said U Thaung Tun.

"It should be noted that Muslims are not a minority in northern Rakhine. They constitute 95 per cent of the total population. What is little known

is that the vast majority of Muslims did not abandon their hearth and home. While there has been an exodus, more than 50 per cent of the Muslim villages in northern Rakhine remain intact," said the National Security Advisor.—GNLM ■



Hindu families pray for victims of the ARSA terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine. PHOTO: MNA

Hindu families pray for local ethnic nationals, public servants and Hindus killed by terrorists

PRAYERS and donations for local ethnic nationals, public servants and Hindus killed by ARSA extremist terrorists in the Maungtaung region of Rakhine State were given on Monday morning at Sri Thanantana Temple in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay.

At the Hindu event, attendees first recited religious verses in accordance with the Hindu religious tradition to open the event and then prayers in Hindu and Myanmar were made by Pandit Mithral and Parbul Ramasandra, after which the attendees observed a minute of silence.

All Myanmar Hindu Central Board Upper Myanmar Mandalay sub board chairman U N Apa Oo, also known as U Khin Maung Lwin, explained the reasons for holding the event and read a Hindu statement condemning terrorist acts committed by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) extremist terrorists.

Afterwards, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Nyein Thit and National League for Democracy Mandalay District chairman U Kan, also known as U Khin Maung Myint, delivered speeches and presented Ks16,674,700 donated by Hindu

religious groups and Hindus to officials.

Hindu social assistance group secretary U Kyaw Win gave words of thanks and U Khin Maung Lwin delivered closing remarks.

Guests were then presented with commemorative gifts and prayer verses were recited according to Hindu religious tradition. The event was concluded with attendees offered traditional Hindu food.

The donations presented in the event will be personally delivered to Rakhine State today, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Statement by H.E. U Thaung Tun, National Security Advisor to the Union Government of Myanmar at the meeting on the situation in Myanmar in the United Nations Security Council

28 September 2017



National Security Advisor U Thaung Tun. PHOTO: MNA

Mr. President,

I thank you for the opportunity to address the Security Council with regard to the turmoil that has recently befallen Myanmar's Rakhine State and the ensuing humanitarian situation.

I have listened carefully to the statements made by the distinguished Secretary-General and the representatives of the member states of the Council.

The common thread that runs through the commentaries is the allusion that "something is rotten in the state of Rakhine." Assertions in the media that a campaign of terror has been unleashed in Northern Rakhine and that unspeakable crimes have been committed against innocent people have only served to heighten the concern of the international community. While such assertions might appear reasonable at first glance to a lay observer, expert observers with knowledge of the history of Rakhine and Myanmar and exposure to the propaganda tactics of terrorists will see such comments for what they really are – subjective and emotionally charged account.

Nevertheless, we understand the concern of the international community and take serious note of it.

Mr. President,

I would like to take this opportunity to apprise you of the situation obtaining on the ground and of our efforts to end the violence, assist all innocent civilians affected by the turmoil and plans to find a lasting solution to the daunting challenges we face.

First, we recognize that there is a serious situation that needs to be addressed.

But we also need to recognize that the recent round of violence was triggered by the attacks launched by so-called ARSA terrorist.

We are committed to a sustainable solution that will lead to peace, stability, development and the return of displaced communities to their homes.

We feel deeply for the suffering and plight of all affected communities – Rakhine, Muslim, Daingnet, Mro, Thet, Maramagyi and Hindu. They are all victims of violence and terrorism.

Terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. It has no place in our civilized world. I am sure you will agree with me when I say that we cannot condone terrorism in any form and manifestation.

The government of Myanmar has strongly condemned the acts of terror committed by ARSA in northern Rakhine. The highest Islamic organization in Myanmar, the "All Myanmar Islamic Religious Organization" as well as the "Interfaith Dialogue Group of Myanmar" have expressed their solidarity with the government and issued statements condemning the acts of terror committed by ARSA. They stressed that no religion can condone violence that result in the loss of life and property. They expressed their support for the government's efforts to address the situation in Rakhine and its endeavors to promote national reconciliation and peace in the entire country.

In this regard, we welcome the statements of the UNSG and of many countries represented here in this table condemning the attack of terrorism.

The government will work to ensure that the fight against terrorism will not distract us from our commitment to bring peace, harmony and development to Rakhine State. It is striving to restore normalcy. There have been no armed clashes and clearance operations since September 5.

Second, I wish to stress that

there is no ethnic cleansing and no genocide in Myanmar.

Ethnic cleansing and genocide are serious charges and they should not be used lightly. It would be a sad commentary of our times if we allowed emotions to cloud our view and assert that what is happening in Rakhine is ethnic cleansing without first undertaking a legal review and making a judicial determination. I can assure you that the leaders of Myanmar, who have been struggling so long for freedom and human rights, will never espouse policy of genocide or ethnic cleansing and the government will do everything to prevent it.

As clearly stated by the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in her address to the diplomatic corps in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 September, we condemn all human rights violation and violence. We are committed to the restoration of peace, stability and rule of law throughout the country. Security forces have been instructed to adhere strictly to the Code of Conduct in carrying out security operations, to exercise all due restraint, and to take full measures to avoid collateral damage and the harming of innocent civilians.

Myanmar is one of the most ethnically diverse countries in the world. It is home to 135 officially recognized ethnic groups, each with its own distinctive culture and adherence to a variety of religions, including Buddhism, Islam, Christianity and Hinduism. Religious groups have been living in harmony throughout our history.

The situation that we face today is due to terrorism and is not based on religion.

It should be noted that Muslims are not a minority in northern Rakhine. They constitute 95% of the total population. What is little known is that the vast majority of Muslims did not abandon their hearth and home. While there have been an exodus, more than 50% of the Muslim villages in northern Rakhine remain intact and are living in peace with the neighbours; Buddhists and Hindus.

Representatives of the diplomatic corps in Yangon, accompanied by the media, will visit northern Rakhine on Monday. They will have the opportunity to

witness firsthand the situation on the ground.

I am happy to affirm that the government of Myanmar has invited the Secretary General and the Under Secretary General to visit Myanmar. We hope to welcome them in the near future to enhance cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations.

Third, the government of Myanmar is fully aware of its primary responsibility to address the humanitarian situation.

We have been providing assistance to all displaced people without discrimination. We are collaborating with the Red Cross Movement and donor countries to provide assistance expeditiously in accordance with humanitarian principles. The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) has agreed to work with us to deliver humanitarian assistance to all displaced persons.

Fourth, we are concerned by reports that thousands of people have crossed into Bangladesh. We would like to fathom reasons for the exodus. We will talk to those who have fled as well as to those who have opted to remain in their villages.

Recently, some hundreds of Muslim villagers left their homes and headed towards the border notwithstanding the efforts of the regional authorities to persuade them to return to their villages. The villagers voiced their concerns regarding the availability of humanitarian assistance in a sustained manner as well as fears that they are becoming a minority in their own area.

It is learnt that the villagers have been threatened over the telephone and that they have been persuaded by their fellow men who are already in Bangladesh to join them. Moreover, the villagers remain fearful of retaliation by the ARSA following the revelation that a large number of Hindu villagers have been massacred and buried in mass graves.

The authorities have reassured the villagers that they would be provided assistance and security. However, some have chosen to cross over to Bangladesh.

There has been a growing clamour for repatriation of ref-

ugees who have fled from Myanmar to Bangladesh. I would like to stress here Myanmar is prepared to start the verification process at any time. Our two neighbors have had the experience of such a repatriation process in 1993.

We are working to enhance relations with Bangladesh. I have met with the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh here in New York last week. The Minister of the Office of the State Counsellor will visit Dhaka this weekend to further discuss matters of mutual concern and to find ways and means to move ahead. We have also invited the Minister of Home Affairs of Bangladesh. We will welcome him any time that he is able to come to Myanmar and hope to take forward our cooperation on border security matters.

Our stated willingness to discuss the issue of repatriation gives the lie to the assertion that there is a policy of ethnic cleansing on our part.

Mr. President,

The new government in Myanmar inherited a challenging situation in Rakhine State and has had to deal with the consequences of actions by other actors.

The current crisis is due to the acts of terror perpetrated by ARSA. To address the situation, the government launched a number of initiatives including the Rakhine Advisory Commission chaired by Dr. Kofi Annan. The recommendation of the Kofi Annan Commission represents a viable roadmap to forge forward.

An implementation committee for the recommendations has already been formed and work is in progress. Two meetings have already been held. We must give this committee time and space.

At this critical juncture in the life of our young democracy, it is imperative that the international community join hands with us to ensure that democracy takes firm root and that we will succeed in carrying out our responsibility to establish peace, stability, and development in Rakhine and in the whole of Myanmar. That is only way we can solve the Rakhine conundrum.

The Security Council must refrain from taking measures that exacerbate rather than alleviate the situation. It can and must do no less.

Thank you.