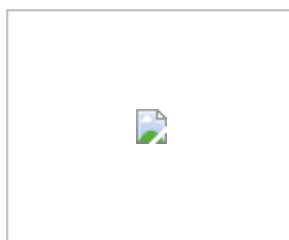


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The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Information Team

Press Release No. 2/2012

November 18, 2012

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, as part of its continuing efforts to meet its international obligations, protect and promote human dignity, and strengthen democratic governance for its peoples, aspires to the following:

Human Rights

The Government of Myanmar will allow the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to resume prisoner visits in coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs. ICRC has recommenced operations in Myanmar since 2011, installing sewage systems, solar power and access to groundwater in many of the country's prisons. Additional access will be granted to assess the welfare and living conditions of the prisoners and to facilitate medical treatment.

The Government of Myanmar will extend an invitation to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to establish an office in Myanmar and begin negotiations on a memorandum of understanding that would establish terms of reference.

The Government of Myanmar has already eliminated a "blacklist" of persons barred from

entering or leaving the country based on their suspected political activity. The Government of Myanmar has also established a point of contact in the Office of the President to provide timely response to citizens and foreigners inquiring about their status.

Prisoner Releases

The Government of Myanmar will initiate a process between the Ministry of Home Affairs and interested parties to devise a transparent mechanism to review remaining prisoner cases of concern by the end of December 2012. Criteria and guidelines for assessing the criminality of politically concerned cases will be identified and discussed in line with international standards and practice.

Conflict Mitigation and Reconciliation

In addition to existing ceasefires with ten major ethnic armed groups, the Government of Myanmar will continue to pursue a durable ceasefire in Kachin State and other areas to de-escalate violent conflicts. The government will pursue sustainable political solutions that address efficient governance and rights of ethnic nationalities in Myanmar.

In Rakhine State, as pledged in President U Thein Sein's 11 November 2012 letter to the UN Secretary General, the Government will take decisive action to prevent violent attacks against civilians; it will hold accountable the perpetrators of such attacks; it will work with the international community to meet the humanitarian needs of the people; and it will address contentious political dimensions, ranging from resettlement of displaced populations to granting of citizenship.

The Government of Myanmar will expedite its negotiations with the ICRC and other international humanitarian organizations for broader access to conflict affected areas.

Non-Proliferation

The Government of Myanmar will sign Additional Protocol to IAEA's Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and give effect to the modified standardized text of the Small Quantities Protocol. President U Thein Sein has approved the measure, which will now be forwarded to the Parliament for final approval. Myanmar has been a member of the IAEA since 1957, signing the Non-proliferation Treaty in December 1992, the Small Quantities Protocol in 1995, the Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty, and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in 1996.

As a member of the United Nations, the Government of Myanmar is committed to abiding with UN Security Council Resolution 1874.

Open Government Partnership

The Government of Myanmar announces its intention to become a full member of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) by the end of 2016. The Government of Myanmar strives to become a more open and accountable government in accordance with OGP's core principles of transparency; civic engagement; anti-corruption; and using technology and innovation to make government more open, effective and accountable.

Anti-Trafficking

The Government of Myanmar agrees to the "US-Myanmar Joint Plan on Trafficking in Persons" including implementing the ILO Action Plan on Forced Labor and the New Wards and Village Tracts Administration Act, which strengthen the number of criminal investigations and prosecutions of perpetrators of trafficking. The Government of Myanmar welcomes the provision of enhanced technical assistance in this area from the United States Government.

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