

Press Release

1. As a principle, Myanmar rejects country-specific mandates including the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of human rights in Myanmar. Myanmar does not create a conducive environment for constructive engagement and genuine dialogue for promotion and protecting of human rights. Myanmar firmly believes that the Universal Periodic Review-UPR process is a dependable and uncontroversial monitoring mechanism to address and rectify human rights situations in all countries on an equal footing.
2. It has been in the spirit of cooperation and in good faith that Myanmar invited and received successive special rapporteurs on the Situation of human rights in Myanmar.
3. In this spirit, Myanmar invited and received Ms. Yanghee Lee, Special Rapporteur on the Situation of human rights in Myanmar for the third time to the country for a five-day visit from 3 to 7 August 2015. The duration of the visit was balanced with the security concerns expressed on the visit. In addition, the disagreement expressed by the people of Myanmar after her second visit to Myanmar in January 2015 was taken into careful consideration.
4. The Special Rapporteur could not visit a state which was declared as the severely flooded States compounded by bad weather conditions. The requested meetings in Nay Pyi Taw were not able to accommodate the authorities were engaged with natural disaster responses in the fields.
5. Myanmar positively took note the commitment of the Special Rapporteur to engage constructively and openly with the Government and stakeholders. It is also pleased to observe the efforts of the Special Rapporteur to listen to the diverse views and opinions. Myanmar encourages the Special Rapporteur to further diversify and enrich her source of information since her end of mission statement contained a wide range of ~~allegations and speculations rather than truth and facts.~~

8. One of the most significant progresses that Myanmar has made in it is in the area of freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and association. No one is arrested or charged for simply exercising their rights peacefully.
9. Illegal migration in the region is driven by quest for greener pastures. Victims are exploited by the people smuggling and human trafficking networks. Countries of origin, transit and destination in the region are redoubling their efforts to address it. On humanitarian grounds, Myanmar has reacted as a responsible member of the international community by temporarily sheltering and providing assistance to trafficked victims using its own resources. Repatriation of hundreds of the boat people is carried out in close cooperation with the country of origin.
10. It is hoped that the Special Rapporteur would produce a balanced report in the future, refraining from selectivity and partiality, and for better promotion and protection of human rights of all citizens of Myanmar.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
12 August 2015