

## Press Release

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has been undergoing reform processes in the spheres of politics and economy with great momentum which has been recognized by the international community. While we have achieved reasonable success in doing so, we need to address some challenges and difficulties that are lying ahead.

The country is still facing humanitarian challenges arisen from the sectarian conflicts of two communities originated on an untoward crime. The Government of Myanmar is trying to resolve those conflicts in good faith and in a peaceful manner so as to pave a way to create an environment for both communities live in harmony and to deliver assistance to both communities without any discrimination.

The Government is receiving the support and assistance from the international community to address the humanitarian issues. The Central Committee on Implementation of Peace and Stability and Development in Rakhine State with a Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar as the Chairman was established last year. The Vice-President paid visits to the Rakhine State, where the incidences had taken place, to have a first-hand and insight knowledge of events on the ground, and members of the diplomatic corps accompanied him during the visits. The Vice-President and responsible high ranking officials from both Union and the Rakhine State explained the real situation to the diplomatic corps on these occasions. In addition, a coordination meeting was held between the Union Ministers and Deputy Ministers from the Ministries concerned and diplomats from the Yangon-based embassies including those from the United States of America, the European Union and Australia. The Government of Myanmar has clearly demonstrated its desire to resolve those issues with the cooperation of the international community through established communication channels.

However, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar learnt with disappointment that the Embassies of the United States, Switzerland and Turkey and the Representation of the European Union recently issued a joint statement regarding some victims of the conflicts temporarily staying in camps in Myebon Township, Rakhine State, ignoring those communication channels. Such act, which can be construed as exerting political pressure in the internal affairs of Myanmar, by no means, will contribute to resolving the issues before the conditions for the peaceful, harmonious co-existence of two communities has been realized, but it may further complicate the already complex situation.

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

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