

The Challenges

The Government of Myanmar and people are fully aware that trust and harmony between the Buddhists and the Muslims is important for lasting peace and development of the country. All communities should preserve and promote mutual respect, understanding, empathy and patience. To this end, the Government and people are striving to oppose hostilities of religious extremism and stand against those who are instigating for the escalation of religious divergence and instability.

Today, although stability has been restored in Myanmar. Certain organisations both at home and abroad are portraying as if there exists severe religious and racial discrimination. All should be cognizant of the fact that such fabrications will further complicate the situation.



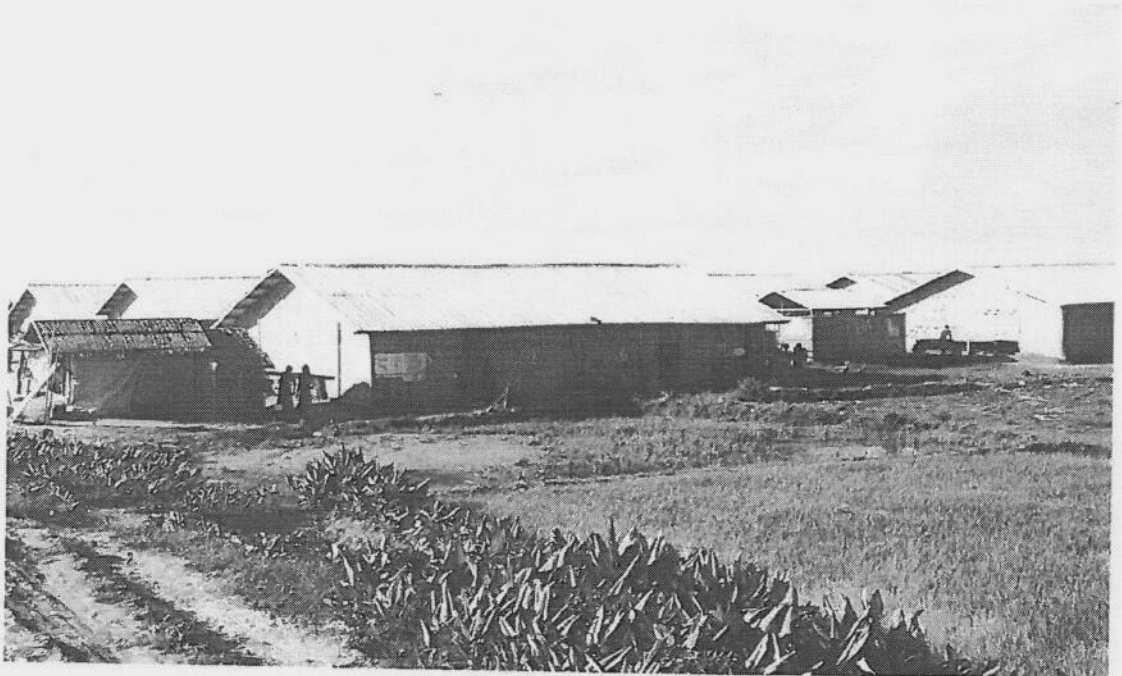
Mr. Nambiar listening to IDPs



Vice President listening to IDPs

Anxiety and distrust between the two communities particularly at the grass roots level is still high. Advocacy to understand and accept peaceful and harmonious co-existence among different faith and races is one of the highest priorities of the government. President U Thein Sein called on the people to pay mutual respect on different beliefs and to promote peace and harmony and to join hands with the government, civil societies and elders. The President urged the Interfaith Friendship Group to work nationwide to help implement three main priorities of rehabilitation, prevention of conflicts and developing a long-term plan to resolve root causes.

The temporary re-settlement of people in one place is to provide security, shelter, food and other immediate assistance to those who are in need. As soon as essential circumstances such as restoration harmony and trust between the communities and creation of conditions for livelihood are met, people will be going back to their original or new homes.



Long house with paddy field by its dwellers

It is encouraging to see that interfaith dialogue at various levels and across the societies is taking place more and more frequently in Myanmar.

Message to the International Community



High level visit underlines the importance attached to the issue

- ▶ Political and socio-economic reform of Myanmar is gaining momentum. This process is all inclusive. Any group of people will not be left behind in this process.
- ▶ There is no discrimination against anyone based on gender, race and faith. The State Constitution guarantees fundamental rights of all.
- ▶ In the interest of all people in Myanmar, the government never tolerate anyone who try to spread incitement of religious hatred directed against anyone or any groups.
- ▶ The Government and people of Myanmar know the situation in Rakhine State the best.



Peace and development for this beautiful land

The answer to Rakhine situation lies within Myanmar. We will find the solution in line with national interest and the international norms and standards. Constructive engagement by the international community would help Myanmar in finding solutions to the issue.

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Nay Pyi Taw.*

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Cooperation with member states of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)



Assistance from Turkey

- ▶ The Government has been facilitating humanitarian and other assistance from any quarters including the member states from the OIC if the assistance is provided to both the communities without any discrimination.
- ▶ Myanmar understands and is fully aware of concerns by the international community.
- ▶ A Presidential Statement issued at the last HRC session is the testimony of our goodwill to work with the international community.
- ▶ In the spirit of cooperation and for the sake of transparency, Myanmar has invited the OIC Secretary-General and 5 Foreign Ministers of the Contact Group to visit Myanmar.



Indonesia Foreign Minister Mr. Marty Natalegawa visiting camps near Sittwe