

Introductory Remarks by
H.E. U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs,
at the Briefing on recent developments in Rakhine State
to Diplomatic Corps and UN Agencies
at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Yangon
28-1-2014

Excellencies,

- Members of the Diplomatic Corps and representatives of UN Agencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Mingalarbar,

- I am pleased to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Today, we have organized a briefing on the incident that had occurred in Maungdaw Township in Rakhine State.
- This incident was already mentioned in the State news papers of 23.1.2014, according to the on ground inspection and verified information.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also issued a press release on 24-1-2014 to give clear information and message ,
- Allow me to recall on the incident which took place on the night of 13 January 2014. During the routine patrol duty in Du Chee Yar Tan (Middle) village in the vicinity a five-member police patrol team was surrounded and threatened by over one hundred Bengali mob wielding sticks and knives. The leader of the police patrol team Police Sergeant Aung Kyaw Thein was captured by the mob.
- The evidences which we found indicate that he was fatally injured and he was still missing along with his rifle.

- However, some of the international medias and some groups had continued to produce unverified information and illogical opinions.
- When International Organizations carryout their reportings it is very important that the information they used in the report to be authentic and from reliable and credible sources.
- In this regard, I would like to highlight some of the points prescribed in the UNGA resolution A/RES/66/81 A-B (9-12-2011) which stresses that the public information given by UN Agencies needs to be accurate, objective and balanced in all four mass media. It also reiterates UNGA's request to ensure that all news-breaking stories and news alerts are accurate, impartial and free of bias.
- I would like to stress the importance of these elements prescribed by UNGA on reporting.

Excellencies,

- President U Thein Sein has instructed to form an independent investigation team to conduct an investigation on that incident.
- Central Committee for Peace Stability and Development of Rakhine State will send a separate team to the Maungtaw district to investigate, also.
- In order to give transparency on the incidents happened in Rakhine State, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission has proposed to make a field trip Maungtaw District in a few days.
- Likewise, Rakhine Conflict Investigation Commission will also send a separate investigation team to the affected area.

Excellencies,

- Since the international communities have shown their interest in the reform process taking Myanmar and expressing the recognition and support. Positive cooperations and assistance were also

rendered to Myanmar Government. For that, We would like to express our appreciations. At the same time we notice that there are concerns over the recent incidents in Rakhine State.

- It is found that these concerns have originated from the unfound news and unverified information.
- Therefore, it is imperative for us to invite you today to the Foreign Ministry in order to provide valid information and clarification on the recent incidents.

Excellencies,

- I would like to mention that the Rakhine State Government led by U Hla Maung Tin, the Chief Minister visited Maungdaw Township, joined by Representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw of Buthitaung and Maungdaw constituencies, Dr. Bawshi Ahmad and Mr. ZarhinGir, and Ms. Babra Brista (UNOCHA) and Resident Coordinator of UNHCR Mr. Roka Kodo had visited the area and met with the villagers.
- In addition, representatives of the Rakhine Conflict Investigation Comission had also made an investigation regarding the incident.
- These groups have met with the villagers who had fled Du Chee Yar Tan village. They also met those villagers who have already returned to the village and they listened to the first hand experience of the villagers.
- After the meeting, they have come to conclusion that this incident which took place on the night of 13 January 2014 was an isolated event and was not connected to any other incidents as alleged by some medias.
- However in expressing concerns by some organizations and countries on the recent incident, they mentioned about death of people, injuries, damage to the village in the events which never took place.

- I would like to stress that the Government of Myanmar is giving priority to the peace and stability of Rakhine State. It is important that communal peace and harmony should prevail in Rakhine State. The Government is fully cooperating with the UN Agencies, with all the humanitarian organizations who are rendering assistance to both communities in Rakhine State.
- We are also cooperating with countries which are providing humanitarian assistance to Rakhine State.
- I would like to suggest that these Agencies and INGOs should communicate to the Rakhine State Government as well as to the focal ministries if they require any assistance. The government is ready to give verification on any news that they want to verify.
- Comments or opinions based on uncertain information or news can be affected to the cooperation and confidence that have been built between friends and partners.

Thank you.
