

POLITICAL MONITOR NO. 32

OFFICIAL MEDIA

COMMUNAL VIOLENCE RE-ERUPTS IN RAKHINE STATE

Communal violence between Rakhine and Rohingyas communities has once again resurfaced in major towns in Rakhine State. According to the state-run New Light of Myanmar, violence erupted in Minbya Township on 21 October and spread to other major townships of Mrauk-U, Myebon and Kyaukphyu in Rakhine State. In responding to the recent outbreak of violence in Rakhine State, the President's Office issued a statement on 25 October, in which it stated that unexpected riots had erupted in several townships in Rakhine State leaving 12 dead, 50 wounded, 1948 houses and religious buildings burned and substantial numbers of people left homeless and that the local authorities are striving to restore law and order and that legal action will be taken against those responsible.¹ (*Please see Appendix A for the full text of the official statement.*)

Unofficial: Early reports according to local media suggest that the recent communal clashes in Rakhine State began on Sunday 21 October in Kyaukphyu and Myebon townships and that a dusk-to-dawn curfew had been imposed in the two affected areas. In a separate report from Radio Free Asia (RFA), a Rohingya man from Kyaukphyu said that "thousands" of Rohingyas had fled the port town amid the fires and that many were now living on boats to avoid the violence. Whereas a Rakhine resident from Kyaukphyu said the recent violence was started by Rohingyas who set fires to Rakhine houses. Due to the region's remoteness, it is difficult to obtain reliable information regarding the outbreak, though the Chairman of Burma's Islamic Religious Affairs Council Al Haji Nyunt Maung Shein said it had received reports that as many as 178 Muslims and Buddhists were killed in the violence, but that the figures could not be independently confirmed.²

BURMA AND AUSTRALIA SEEK TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC TIES

President U Thein Sein received an Australian delegation led by Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations and for Financial Services and Superannuation Hon. Bill Shorten in Naypyitaw on 23 October. In his meetings with President U Thein Sein and NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi, Minister Shorten discussed labour rights, human rights, trade and investment, and how Australia could support Burma's on-going political, social and economic reforms. The Australian Minister called on Burmese Commerce Minister Win Myint and discussed matters relating to promoting trade between the two countries.³

BURMESE LEADERS RECEIVE FORMER BRITISH PRIME MINISTER BLAIR

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair visited Burma's capital Naypyitaw on 20 October 2012, on his first visit to the country. Blair met Burmese leaders including President U Thein Sein, Lower House Speaker Thura Shwe Mann and NLD leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and discussed the on-going political reform process as well as cooperation in education, health and human resource sectors.⁴

¹ Some villages under fire, riots occurs in Minbya, Mrauk-U Townships – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-24.pdf> (NLM) 24 October 2012 (p. 16) / One dead, 28 others injured in Kyaukpyu incident – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-25.pdf> (NLM) 25 October 2012 (p. 6) / President Office issues statement with regard to conflict in Rakhine State – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-26.pdf> (NLM) 26 October 2012 (p. 1)

² Renewed violence flares in Rakhine State – <http://mizzima.com/news/inside-burma/8285-renewed-violence-flares-in-rakhine-state.html> (Mizzima) 25 October 2012

³ President U Thein Sein receives Australian Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations and for Financial Services and Superannuation – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-24.pdf> (NLM) 24 October 2012 (p.1) / Australia eyes investment opportunities in Myanmar – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-26.pdf> (NLM) 26 October 2012 (p.8) / Investment, labour rights and education a key focus for Australian trade delegation in Myanmar (Media Release) – <http://ministers.deewr.gov.au/shorten/investment-labour-rights-and-education-key-focus-australian-trade-delegation-myanmar> (Minister's Media Centre) 24 October 2012

⁴ Myanmar, Britain to cooperate in development of education, health, human resources – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-21.pdf> (NLM) 21 October 2012 (p. 1) /

POLISH SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT VISITS BURMA

A Polish parliamentary delegation led by Senate Speaker Bogdan Borusewicz arrived in Burma on 24 October for an official visit where it met with President U Thein Sein, the Speakers of both the Lower and Upper Houses and the Chairman of the Projects and Financial Development Committee of the Lower House. In their official meetings, the two sides discussed cooperation between the two countries and parliaments as well as seeking Poland's assistance in the on-going peace process being implemented between the Burmese government and ethnic armed groups. The Speaker Borusewicz also met National League for Democracy (NLD) leader Aung San Suu Kyi in Yangon and stated that he viewed the noble laureate as 'a cautious optimist'.⁵

US TO INVITE BURMA TO OBSERVE 'COBRA GOLD' MILITARY EXERCISE

The United States will invite Burma to the world's largest multinational military field exercise, a powerful symbolic gesture and a milestone in its rapprochement with the West. Burma has been invited to observe "Cobra Gold", which brings together thousands of American and Thai military personnel and participants from other Asian countries for joint annual maneuvers, officials from countries participating in the exercises told *Reuters*. The move is a significant and symbolic gesture shown by the US in its that shows the rapprochement is gathering momentum", said Christopher Roberts, a security expert at Australia National University. It is also seen as a first step towards US-Burmese military-to-military ties, cut off after 1988. The invitation came after intense lobbying by Thailand, co-host of the exercises. The invitation follows a visit by a delegation led by Michael Posner, the US State Department's top human rights official, to Naypyitaw. The US team also included Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Vikram Singh and other US military officials. In 2011, about 10,000 US military personnel took part, along with about 3,400 Thais. Five other countries participated—Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea and nine countries sent observers, including China.⁶

HLUTTAW SESSIONS – Highlights

Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) sessions

The 5th regular session of the First Pyithu Hluttaw was held for the 2nd day at Pyithu Hluttaw Complex in Naypyitaw and attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 389 MPs. 6 questions were raised and answered, one proposal submitted and one report submitted.

- The Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwin Hsan, briefed the session on **the conditions related to the Generalized System of Preference (GSP)** and stated that before 1997, Burma enjoyed GSP. However, this was withdrawn by the EU due to action taken by the ILO against Burma on the issue of forced labour. However, taking into consideration the reforms being implemented by the new government which took office in 2012, and in the recognition of the reforms, the ILO took a decision on 13 June 2012, to ease its bans on Burma. And as a result, the EU Commission Meeting held on 17 September 2012 decided to reinstate Burma with its GSP status. Therefore,

Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with Blair on bilateral ties –
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-21.pdf> (NLM) 21 October 2012 (p. 16) /

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair visits Naypyitaw –
<http://ukinburma.fco.gov.uk/en/news/?view=News&id=825689382> (British Embassy, Rangoon) – 23 October 2012

⁵ Polish Senate Speaker arrives in Yangon –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-25.pdf> (NLM) 25 October 2012 (p. 6) /

President U Thein Sein meets Polish Senate Speaker –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-27.pdf> (NLM) 27 October 2012 (p. 1) /

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives Speaker of Senate of Poland –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-26.pdf> (NLM) 26 October 2012 (p. 2) /

Chairman of Projects and Financial Development Committee of Pyithu Hluttaw meets Polish delegation –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-26.pdf> (NLM) 26 October 2012 (p. 8) /

Polish Senate speaker visits Myanmar –

<http://www.visegradgroup.eu/news/polish-senate-speaker-121025> (Visegrad Group) – 25 October 2012

⁶ US to invite Myanmar to observe military exercise "Cobra Gold" –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-20.pdf> (NLM/Reuters) 20 October 2012 (p. 16)

from the beginning of the year 2013, the country will be enjoying the benefits of the GSP status once again.⁷

On the 3rd day, 4 questions were raised and answered, one proposal and one report submitted. The session was attended by 387 MPs and 65 youth observers from the Kokang Self-Administered Zone.⁸

The 4th day session was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 388 MPs. 5 questions were raised and answered, 2 proposals submitted and 1 bill approved.

- U Kyaw Ni Naing of Laukai Constituency (USDP) raised the question on **“the issuance of Citizenship Scrutiny Cards and the time needed to issue them.**
- U Sein Myint of Botahtaung Constituency (USDP) submitted **the proposal on “enactment of Industrial Zone Law”** and U Win Myint of Patheingyi Constituency (USDP), on **“Revoking the Law to Safeguard the State Against the Dangers of those Desiring to Cause Subversive Act enacted in 1975 as Pyithu Hluttaw Law No.3”**. Regarding the proposal by U Sein Myint, Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint clarified that industrial zones have pointed out the fact that enactment of same law for all industrial zones might face too many difficulties due to the variances in structure, production and locations. It would be more convenient if it is done in line with laws prescribed for respective industrial zones under the arrangement of respective Region/State governments. Hluttaw has decided to put it on record. The Hluttaw session agreed to discuss U Win Myint’s proposal at a later date.⁹

On the 5th day, 5 questions were raised and answered, 1 report submitted and 1 bill approved.

- U Maung Toe of Minhla Constituency (USDP) raised the question and asked the situation regarding **“the gross debt, revolving currency, foreign reserve currency and gold prices, for the 2011-2012 financial year”**. In responding to the question, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Maung Maung Thein replied that **Myanmar’s total foreign debt (including capital plus interest) is USD 15089.434 million and domestic debt, K 9,988,857 million. The circulating currency is K 6,199,122.95 million till the end of September (2012- 2013 financial year). Foreign reserve currency and gold values are being calculated and the figures will be released separately.**
- **The Minimum Wage Bill (2012)** submitted by the Ministry of Labour was approved by the session.¹⁰

On the 6th day Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 378 MPs and Deputy Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Tin Aung and 31 regional MPs attended the session as observers. 5 questions were raised and answered, 1 proposal discussed, 1 urgent proposal and the report of the Bill Committee on Civil Servants Bill submitted.

- U Than Tun of Debayin Constituency (USDP) raised a question about **measures for fighting against corruption at court at different levels.** Supreme Court Judge U Soe Nyunt responded and described the alleged corruption at different levels of courts from the ground as misleading hearsay without creditability. He said the Supreme Court of the Union has issued instructions to prevent against bribery, corruption, fraud and negligence of judges and personnel at different levels of courts. Such measures as multi-level enforcement, punitive actions against failure to observe instructions and investigation and punishment on receiving complaints are in practice to enforce the instructions.
- U Myint Tun of Kawthoung Constituency (USDP) asked about **measures of the Supreme Court of the Union for strengthening of judicial pillar**, a proposal approved by Pyithu Hluttaw. Supreme

⁷ Myanmar enjoys GSP with retroactive benefit for exports – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-20.pdf> (NLM) 20 October 2012 (p. 1 & 8)

⁸ Pyithu Hluttaw session continues for third day – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-23.pdf> (NLM) 23 October 2012 (p. 16)

⁹ CSC can be issued within a day when there is enough time, within at most 28 days based on data collected – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-24.pdf> (NLM) 24 October 2012 (p. 9)

¹⁰ Myanmar’s total foreign debt is over USD 15000 million and domestic debt, over K 9,900,000 million – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-25.pdf> (NLM) 25 October 2012 (p. 9)

Court Judge U Soe Nyunt responded replied that the Supreme Court has prepared itself to take advices as necessary if the other three pillars are to support the judicial branch. He reckoned that the Supreme Court would not need to issue law, by-law, order and instruction with regard to proposal passed by the Pyithu Hluttaw.

- U Thein Zaw of Myitkyina Constituency (USDP) submitted **an urgent proposal** urging the Union government to take a leading role in assuring food security and regional development of Putao District of Kachin State, following the proposal of U Yaw Di Dwe of Putao Constituency (USDP) who urged the Union government to provide comprehensive support to displaced local national people due to security condition in Kachin State coupled with shortage of foods; civil servants who find it difficult to discharge duties in assigned places and local and foreign businessmen due to lack of security, especially in transportation to Putao District, Chipwe and Sawlaw regions. Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Police Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun replied that under the guidance of the Union government, Ministry of Border Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Kachin State government in cooperation undertaking relief and rescue works. In addition, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives, State Hluttaw representatives, UN agencies, NGOs and INGOs, social and religious organizations and well-wishers are assisting in food provisions, accommodation, health, and education for the victims. Measures are being taken from various aspects for easing difficulties to local people and departmental personnel. The proposals were put on record by the session.¹¹

HLUTTAW SESSIONS – Highlights

Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) sessions

The 5th regular session of the first Amyotha Hluttaw held its 2nd day at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building and was attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint (USDP) and 209 MPs. 6 questions were raised and answered and 1 proposal submitted.

- Union Minister at President Office U Soe Maung submitted the proposal on **urging Amyotha Hluttaw to discuss the bill amending the Region or State Level officials' emoluments, expenses and insignias, which had been sent by the Union Government Office.** The proposal was seconded and discussed by U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No.6 (USDP), and the Speaker agreed to discuss the proposal at a later date.¹²

The 3rd day was attended by Speaker U Khin Aung Myint (USDP) and 197 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives. 2 proposals were submitted during the session.

- Regarding the proposal urging the Union government to supervise and prohibit fishing of offshore trawlers in the onshore fishing area in the Burmese coastal region submitted by U Ohn Tin of Rakhine State Constituency No (10) (RNDP) on the 37th day of the previous session, Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye replied that off-shore trawlers were under close supervision of the Ministry of Defense, trawlers are being convinced to employ Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), whose installation would become a disciplinary action against local fishing boats that breach the rules. Severe actions are being taken against offshore fishing boats that enter into onshore fishing areas, spoiling its marine resources, he said.
- The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker said seafood is a strategic alternative for feeding the rising population facing food insufficiency. The Speaker pointed out that it is another area to be conserved. The current plan, if inadequate, must be revised, he said. The Speaker underscored the need of advanced tools. The weakness in strength and technology must be overcome with

¹¹ Pyithu Hluttaw session continues for sixth day –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-26.pdf> (NLM) 26 October 2012 (p. 16) /
Alleged cases of corruption at different levels of courts not hold water: Supreme Court Judge –
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-26.pdf> (NLM) 26 October 2012 (p. 16) /
The government helping displaced people in Kachin State –
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-26.pdf> (NLM) 26 October 2012 (p. 16)

¹² Proposal on the bill amending Region or State Level officials' emoluments, expenses and insignias submitted –
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-20.pdf> (NLM) 20 October 2012 (p. 1 & 8)

the participation of the people, he suggested. If workers of fishing boats are equipped with tools such as satellite system, camera and GPS, they will be in more favourable position to prevent poaching by foreign vessels. The Speaker said the national entrepreneurs would be given priority and trawlers would be equipped with sophisticated tools to play catch-up. He called for review of line ministries. The proposal was approved by the parliament with majority vote.¹³

The 4th day was attended by Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein and 201 MPs. 7 queries were answered and one proposal was submitted to the Hluttaw.

- U Khet Htein Nan from Kachin State Constituency No. (1)9 UDPKS submitted the proposal **“urging the Union Government to empower the States and Regions to constitute national races literature and cultural troupes groups”** which was endorsed by Sai Tin Aung from Kachin State Constituency No. 5 (USDP). The session decided to discuss the proposal at a later date.¹⁴

The 5th day was attended by Deputy Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Mya Nyein and 199 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives. 1 report was discussed, 3 questions raised and answered and 1 proposal submitted.

- U Hla Swe of Magway Region Constituency No (12) (USDP) asked **which law could be applied to sue foreign media while they make defamation to anyone or any organizations in Burma.** And in responding, the Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi replied that they would be sued under the Law of Trot which is familiar and practiced in international arena. If signals aired from aboard could be received in the territory of Myanmar, they would be under the judgment of courts in Myanmar as it had an effect on the country. The Union minister pointed out whether there would be benefited or not because they the verdict of the court would be approved if they were sued outside.
- Daw Khin Waing Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency (1) (NDF) and Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye of Kayin State Constituency (6) (USDP) **discussed the report of Amyotha Hluttaw Women and Children Committee.** The Deputy Speaker decided to take measures as per the decision of the committee after redrawing the report in cooperation with the MPs who participated in discussion.¹⁵

The 6th day was attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and 199 representatives. 4 questions were raised and answered, 1 report approved and 2 proposals submitted.

- **The report** submitted by Secretary of ASEAN Economic Community Committee, U Kan Nyunt was **put on record.**
- U Myo Myint of Mandalay Region Constituency No (6) (USDP) made a **proposal to review electrical power projects which will be run under the investments of the State, BOT system and JV/BOT system with the aim of ensuring harmonious development in the country.**¹⁶

¹³ National entrepreneurs would be given priority and trawlers would be equipped with sophisticated tools to play catch-up – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-23.pdf> (NLM) 23 October 2012 (p. 16 & 9)

¹⁴ Formation of national races literature and cultural troupes groups under discussion – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-24.pdf> (NLM) 24 October 2012 (p. 9)

¹⁵ Amyotha Hluttaw regular session continues for fifth day – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-25.pdf> (NLM) 25 October 2012 (p. 9) / More detailed information will be published in PSM to cover news based on peace journalism – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-25.pdf> (NLM) 25 October 2012 (p. 9)

¹⁶ Four questions answered, one report approved, two proposals submitted – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-26.pdf> (NLM) 26 October 2012 (p. 16)

UNOFFICIAL MEDIA

USDP CHIEF MINISTERS TO BE ASSIGNED AS REGIONAL PARTY LEADERS

The Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) leadership is likely to appoint Chief Ministers of Region/State governments to lead its regional branches, despite criticism of the move from some inside the party. USDP Vice-Chairman U Htay Oo said on 18 October that the chief ministers will be expected to both lead their governments and carry out party activities but will not be compromised by the dual role. He said that the appointments are expected to be confirmed in the following two weeks and the ministers will be given the role of chair or patron in the party ranks. The current constitution restricts members of the Union Government from taking up party activities but there is no rule forbidding chief ministers in assuming such duties. The news has not been welcomed by MPs including some from the USDP who are unhappy with the decision, saying it will effectively make regional governments and USDP branches as a single entity. The annual USDP party conference held in Naypyitaw on 16 October announced the inclusion of the chief ministers of Yangon, Bago, Magwe, Mandalay and Sagaing regions and Mon State as members of the 44-member Central Executive Committee.¹⁷

MORE DISPUTES EMERGE IN NLD OVER PARTY ASSEMBLY

More disputes have emerged in the lower ranks of the National League for Democracy (NLD) and the dissent could overshadow the convening of the party's first general assembly later in 2012. It is said that NLD members from Mandalay's Pyigyitagun Township are unhappy at the way the selections and appointments have been conducted. NLD member U Ko Ko from said that the current crisis was based on the issuing of party membership cards and undemocratic commissions being undertaken at village level selection process. Ko Ko Aung and another long-time Pyigyitagun member, U Win Hlaing, said that they are "very upset" with some members at the district level, who they said have only recently joined the party and were undertaking their roles in an "undemocratic" way. The disagreements, they said, date back to the April by-election. "Working for the party should be about duty, not about power. Senior party members should consider what is right and wrong at the bottom level. You can see clearly there are issues of patronage and unfairness," Ko Ko Aung said. NLD spokesperson U Nyan Win said members should recognize that the selection process will only be used for the assembly and those chosen are not being appointed to permanent positions. "We don't accept some members' claim that the selection process for the commission delegates is not democratic ... we are assigning responsibility for the event to the people who are the most capable".¹⁸

¹⁷ USDP to make chief ministers state, region branch leaders - <http://www.mmtimes.com/index.php/national-news/2581-usdp-to-make-chief-ministers-state-region-branch-leaders.html> (Myanmar Times) 22 October 2012

¹⁸ More disputes emerge in NLD over party assembly – <http://www.mmtimes.com/index.php/national-news/mandalay-upper-myanmar/2594-more-disputes-emerge-in-nld-over-party-assembly.html> (Myanmar Times) 22 October 2012

ANALYSIS

The communal clashes in Rakhine State which resurfaced on 21 October in Rakhine State, will not have been welcomed in Naypyitaw and once again reflect the importance in addressing the issue as a matter of priority. In attempting to resolve the issue after the violence first broke out, the government established a 27-member investigation commission on 17 August, and mandated it to submit its findings to the President by November 2012. While such initiatives may seem to provide details of the communal violence, it has not been able to address the tension between the Rakhine and Rohingya communities in Rakhine State. Furthermore, other factors including leadership by local government officials on the ground as well as the lack of understanding and trust between the two communities may have prompted the renewed violence. The central government will now need to reassess its position regarding this issue and devote more time if it is serious in ending the crisis between the Rakhines and Rohingyas.

While domestic communal violence may have taken centre stage, party politics has also come to the fore, with both the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) and National League for Democracy (NLD) facing internal disputes. The idea of appointing Chief Ministers from the Region/State governments to lead the USDP party while been welcomed by some has not gone down too well with its own members as well as opposition party members. The USDP will indeed need to convince the wider public that such initiatives are done in the best interest of the country and not merely to consolidate its control within the government. Similarly, the NLD will also need to get its own house in order if it is to become the major opposition party in preparing for the 2015 elections. The present crisis prevailing in Pyigyitagun Township, Mandalay could be a rare incident and may seem to be an issue which handled in the right way can be put to rest. However, if left unattended further internal disputes could arise within the NLD ranks throughout the country.

Since coming to office in March 2011, President Thein Sein has shown his willingness and genuine commitment in changing the country's future by implementing reforms. However, the recent reoccurrence of communal unrest in the Rakhine State is a crisis which will not and cannot be solved overnight. The issue itself has been neglected and left unattended by successive Burmese governments and has now become a priority for President Thein Sein to finally put an end to the clashes.

APPENDICES

Appendix A:

President Office issues statement with regard to conflict in Rakhine State

Nay Pyi Taw, 25 Oct— The President Office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued a statement (1/2012) dated 25-10-2012. The translation of the statement is as follows

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President Office

Statement No.(1/2012)

25 October, 2012

10th Waxing of Thadingyut 1374 ME

Statement with regard to conflict in Rakhine State

1. In consequences of crimes in May and June, 2012, there occurred riots and arsons between groups of raging peoples, killing 50, wounding 54 and burning down 2230 houses and 14 religious buildings till 14 June. The incident also left 61,462 people homeless forcing victims to take shelter at relief camps
2. To bring an quick end to those riots, Rakhine State government issued Article 144 of the Criminal Code of Law in some townships in Rakhine State, the President declared state of emergency by issuing ordinance in conformity with the constitution and the government in cooperation with local people as well as Myanmar Police Force and Tatmadaw took measures to restore the rule of law and community peace and tranquility and as a result, stability could be restored in short period. The state of emergency was declared under the law with the approval of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.
3. Some international organizations made criticism of the case, describing it as the abuse of human rights and even presented to the United Nations, making the Myanmar government to defend against those criticisms through every possible mean. At the same time, the government had to make efforts to acquire humanitarian aids for temporarily sheltering, provision of food and health care and rehabilitation of victims.
4. Again, riots erupted in Kyaukpyu, Minbya, Myebon and Mrauk-U townships unexpectedly in Rakhine State, leaving 12 dead, 50 wounded, 1948 houses and eight religious buildings in ashes with substantial numbers of homeless people till 24 October, 2012.
5. Now is the time when Myanmar has achieved the support and international recognition of its drive for smooth transition in democratization process within the short period of time and when international community is watching ongoing progress in Myanmar with interest.
6. As riots and violence occurred again have a great impact on the national integrity and interest, effective measures will be taken for rule of law and community peace and tranquility with the collaborative efforts of Myanmar Police Force, Tatmadaw and local people. As it is learnt that there are persons and organizations that are conducting manipulation in the incidents in Rakhine State behind the scene, it is announced that they will be exposed and legal actions will be taken against them.¹⁹

¹⁹ President Office issues statement with regard to conflict in Rakhine State –
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-26.pdf> (NLM) 26 October 2012 (p. 1)