



14 March 2016
ASA 16/3638/2016

UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-First session
29 February – 24 March 2016

Item 4: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar¹

Mr. President,

Ms. Lee, we welcome your report and share your concerns regarding the breadth of major human rights challenges Myanmar faces.

Almost 100 prisoners of conscience are in prison. Hundreds more activists are on trial and face imprisonment for the peaceful exercise of their human rights.

Ending the practices that fuel arbitrary arrests will require more than prisoners' amnesties. Laws restricting freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association must be brought into line with international human rights standards.

Individuals have been imprisoned for peacefully protesting against land confiscation or the environmental impact of corporate projects. Ms. Lee, do you have plans to examine corporate human rights abuses?

¹ See also Amnesty International's written statement, "Myanmar: UN support still required to improve the human rights situation" at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa16/3436/2016/en/>.

The statement provides an overview of concerns and recommendations on the serious human rights situation in the country. It stresses that despite recent elections, Myanmar's new government will be confronted to a wide range of human rights challenges and that it is unclear what capacity it will have to address them - which underscores the necessity for the Council to adopt a resolution under agenda item 4 and extend the mandate of its Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar.

Mr. President,

The protracted human rights crisis in Rakhine State has further deteriorated. Most members of the Rohingya community were unable to cast a vote in the elections, and many Muslim and Rohingya candidate were disqualified on discriminatory grounds. Authorities continued to fail to address advocacy of hatred and incitement to discrimination and violence against Muslims.

In 2015, 100,000 people were newly displaced due to the internal armed conflicts in northern Myanmar. Affected civilians continue to be the victims of unlawful killings, disappearances, rape and other forms of sexual violence and restrictions on humanitarian access.

In view of the above situation, and the military's retention of economic and political power, Amnesty International is sharing its concerns about the extent to which the new government will be able to promote human rights reforms.

In light of the above we urge the Human Rights Council to call on the government of Myanmar to:

- Release immediately and unconditionally all prisoners of conscience;
- End all discrimination in law, policy and practice against ethnic and religious minorities, and ensure Rohingya have equal access to citizenship rights;
- End immediately all violations of international humanitarian and human rights law in internal conflict areas; and
- Extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar under item 4.

Thank you Mr. President.