

## Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

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**30** August 2013

Dear Sirs and Mesdames,

I would like to refer to your joint urgent appeal dated 24 July 2013, concerning Mr. Kyaw Hla Aung.

I have received the following information from the authorities about the aforementioned matter:

- A combined group of public servants led by U Yan Aung Myint, a staff officer from the Department of Immigration and National Registration, took a field trip on 26 April 2013 to conduct the population verification work. They arrived at Thetkalpyin village in Sittway at 0945 hours. They were confronted by a mob led by the village leader U Kyaw Myint. The group first threw stones at the public servants and thereafter attacked them with sticks, knives and homemade weapons.
- Sergeant Win Aung, Rakhine representative U Tun Hla Aung, Assistant Immigration Officer U Sai Myat Thu and Police Sergeant Soe Aung sustained injuries in the mob attack. The mob assaulted U Yan Aung Myint and snatched away his mobile phone.
- In accordance with police procedures, U Yan Aung Myint lodged a case against the villagers, who were involved in the violent attack, with the Sittway Myoma Police Station under Section 148/333/382 of the Penal Code.
- Section 148 of the Penal Code is about rioting, armed with deadly weapon.
- Section 333 is about voluntarily causing grievous hurt to deter a public servant from performing his/her duty.
- Section 382 is about theft after preparation made for causing death, hurt or restraint in order to the committing of the theft.
- U Kyaw Hla Aung (aka) Kassin, Kyaw Myint (aka) Mahmood Salih and the group gathered 100 Bengalis at Mansi Cemetery Mosque on 24 April 2013 at 1400 hours. They provoked and incited the Bengalis to launch a violent attack on the public servants using various kinds of home-made weapons such as knives and sticks.
- On 17 July, Police Lieutenant Khin Maung Hla lodged a complaint against U Kyaw Hla Aung and the group with the Sittway Myoma Police Station under Section 148/333/150 of the Penal Code. Kyaw

Hla Aung (aka) Kassin was arrested in accordance with police procedures.

- Section 150 of the Penal Code is about hiring, or conniving at hiring, of persons to join unlawful assembly.
- U Kyaw Hla Aung is under interrogation by the police. He is being detained at the Sittway Police Station with the remand granted by the Deputy Township Judge of Sittway.
- Family members of U Kyaw Hla Aung can visit him at the Sittway Police Station. He has access to legal advice and can retain a lawyer of his own choice. No restrictions are imposed on him.
- Every citizen has the right to the freedom of conscience. Followers of various faiths in the country enjoy their right to the freedom of religion.
- U Kyaw Hla Aung has unlimited access to medical checkup and necessary medical treatment in accordance with doctor's instructions. He enjoys sufficient medical care and attention in accordance with prison procedures.

Please accept, Sirs and Mesdames, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Maung Wai)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar

Mr. El Hadji Malick Sow Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

Mr. Frank La Rue

Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

Mr. Maina Kiai

Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

Mr. Heiner Bielefldt

Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief

Mr. Anand Grover

Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

Ms. Margaret Sekaggya

Special Rappouteur on the situation of human rights defenders

Ms. Izsak Rita

Independent Expert on minority issues