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Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
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No. ~~345~~3-27/91

25 July 2014

Dear Madam,

I would like to refer to your note dated 19 June 2014, conveying a joint urgent appeal from the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, the Special Rapporteur on minority issues and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, in connection with the draft bill on Religious Conversion.

The draft bill is still at a very initial stage of public debate; it has not yet been discussed in the Parliament of Myanmar. We are of the view that the joint urgent appeal does not meet the criteria stipulated in article 10 of the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate-holders of the Human Rights Council contained in HRC resolution 5/2. Article 10 does not provide any ground for the Special Rapporteurs to send a joint urgent appeal on a draft law.

For this reason, we would like to suggest that the above-mentioned joint urgent appeal be withdrawn and deregistered from the Communications report of the Special Procedures.

Please accept, Madam, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Sincerely,

for the Permanent Representative,
(Kyaw Moe Tun, Minister Counsellor)

Ms. Jane Connors
Chief
Special Procedures Branch
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Copy to: Mr. Frank La Rue
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to
freedom of opinion and expression

Heiner Bielefeldt
Special Rapporteur of freedom of religion or belief

Mr. Michel Forst
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

Ms. Rita IZSAK
Special Rapporteur on minority issues

Ms. Yanghee Lee
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar