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Permanent Representative

No. 248 / 3-27/ 91

8 May 2019

Dear Madam and Sir,

Referring to your letter AL MMR 1/2019 dated 22 March 2019, I would like to convey the information received from the authorities concerned in Myanmar regarding the legal action taken to U Myo Aung , the Chief Editor of Tanintharyi Journal on the satirical articles of the Journal as follows :

- The necessary legal action was taken to U Myo Aung for unethical, public shaming, openly humiliating, and misleading the public with misinformation, defaming the Regional Chief Minister and her family as well as the Regional Government.
- Tanintharyi Journal page 14 and page 22 of Series 5, Number 17 illustrated a satirical piece refers to an incumbent female administrator, "Shin Gwan Gwep" who plays to be a local administrator. The writer also did humiliating by illustrating the spouse of Chief Minister. Likewise, the author wrote about the name of the Chief Minister as "Shin Gwan Gwep" her daughter was named "Shin Gwan Kali" (Currently Spouse of celebrity); those illustrations were inhumanity, humiliation and indignity to the Chief Minister and her family.
- Tanintharyi Regional government has put concerted efforts to reduce electricity prices and to get full electricity supply. In this case, incorrect descriptions and misinformation of the Thanintharyi weekly journal severely affected and damaged he reputation of the regional government.

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- On 22 November 2017, U Aye Lu, Deputy Director of Thanintharyi Regional Government, on behalf of the Regional Government, filed a complaint to the judge for necessary legal action against the Journal.
- It was found out that the Journal violated the media act section 9(g) and, therefore, legal action was taken in accordance with media act section 25(b).
- After all, U Myo Aung, the Editor of Tanintharyi Monday Weekly Journal was taken legal action under the Media Act, section 25 (b).
- On 18.2.2019 Dawei Township Court charged fine - 500,000 MMK (or) 6 months sentence if he fails to pay the fine - to U Myo Aung for his wrongdoing. U Myo Aung paid 500,000 MMK.

In his statement to the High-Level Segment of the 40th Session of the Human Rights Council on 26 February 2019, the Union Minister for International Cooperation of Myanmar stated that this year, Myanmar set a target to sign the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights - ICCPR.

Please accept, Madam and Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.



(Kyaw Moe Tun)

Permanent Representative

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar

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