

**Full Text of the Address Delivered by President U Thein Sein in Connection with
Mandalay Incident, 7 July 2014**

My fellow citizens,

Through this address, I would like to apprise you of the position of the Government in connection with the unfortunate incident fueled by incitements on a possible crime in Mandalay. I wish to convey my deep condolences to the families of the two persons who lost their lives and the sincere sympathies to those who were injured during the unfortunate incident.

As you are fully aware, the main objective of the reform process that has been launched since the advent of our Government is for the prevalence of peace and stability, the realization of national development and the creation of a society with thriving democratic practices. Political reform, which is vital in the reform process, is enabling the people of Myanmar to better enjoy the freedom of expression and press freedom. This is why the country is now keeping abreast with other top media freedom countries in South East Asia. Despite this, we will take necessary measures against those who abuse the media freedom to endanger the State security, in accordance with the existing laws.

Creating an open prosperous society needs thriving democratic practices. We, therefore, need to nurture the democratic practices which include accepting of differences, majority rule while respecting the rights of minorities and negotiating peacefully to address the differences. Our State Constitution allows the freedom of religion, enabling everyone to profess the religion of his/her own choice.

During this transition period, we have been addressing the challenges in connection with communal violence. The outbreak of some incidents are attributable to poverty, the lack of education and the lower level of development. But some others were deliberate actions and instigations to deter the hope of our society aiming at thriving democratic practices. People had to suffer and the image of the country was affected due to the incitements of those who act in their own self-interest. Therefore, we will take serious actions against those who spread rumors and hate speech as it endangers our society with different faiths.

In Mandalay, residents with different faiths have lived harmoniously. They serve as a model society of Myanmar with the reputation of living side by side peacefully and helping each other in their community activities. By joining hand by hand with each other and wisely responding the situation had help to overcome the current instability. We regret the death of two innocent persons and the damage to the property. Meanwhile, we have witnessed the unity of Mandalay residents in preventing senseless actions of a group of people. Religious leaders and community leaders have closely cooperated in addressing the situation which clearly reflects the value of mutual trust and confidence between the residents. The Government encourages these collective efforts, and we will continue working closely with all of you.

Currently, we have deployed security forces in Mandalay to better stabilize the situation and to take necessary measures systematically. Measures are underway to take serious actions against those who committed crimes and manipulated the incident. I would like to reiterate that the Government will not tolerate any incitement and violent act and will take immediate serious actions.

In every society, there are those who place their self-interest at the expense of the community. The incident in Mandalay clearly shows that there is a group behind in creating

the violence and incitements with intention. In this regard, I call upon all citizens to avoid helping violent acts and lawless reactions in responding such incitements and cooperate with the government.

We need cooperation from all citizens by deterring hate speech either in the form of spoken or written or behavioral and by opposing such actions. Wisdom of our citizens is essential.

In conclusion, I wish to call for the cooperation by the people at large to avoid recurrence of similar incidents in other parts of the country and to take resolute actions against instigations, in accordance with the law.
