

Communication Conveyed To OHCHR

The following is the text that the Permanent Mission of Myanmar communicated to the relevant branch of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on 23 June 2014:

“One of the cornerstones of Myanmar’s foreign policy is the cooperation with the United Nations. We have been actively engaging with relevant UN agencies and programmes. In the same vein, we have been cooperating with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in an appropriate manner.

We take a positive note of the OHCHR supporting the United Nations Human Rights mechanisms and programmes under the leadership of the High Commissioner in accordance with the mandate contained in the UNGA resolution 48/141.

On the other hand, however, it is regrettable to find that, on 20 June 2014, the OHCHR released a public statement on Myanmar by three United Nations Special Rapporteurs, without even sharing an advance copy of the statement with the country concerned. While we appreciate the engagement by the Office by informing us that the statement has been released inadvertently due to a technical error, we are of the view that the Office has not done enough to withdraw the statement as it was uploaded on the website of the United Nations Office at Geneva on 20 June 2014.

Article 13(a), as contained in the annex to the Human Rights Council Resolution 5/2, states: “Mandate-holders shall: While expressing their considered views, particularly in their public statements concerning allegations of human rights violations, also indicate fairly what responses were given by the concerned State;”.

Unfortunately, however, from our experience, the above provision is rarely respected by some Special Rapporteurs.

What transpired on 20 June 2014 is not acceptable to us. It should not have happened that way, in the first place. Furthermore, this kind of mistake could lead to a misunderstanding between Myanmar and the relevant Special Rapporteurs.

For these reasons, we hereby lodge a protest against the unprofessional behaviour on the part of the OHCHR with regard to Myanmar.

We expect the OHCHR to prevent the recurrence of such situations in the future.”

Permanent Mission of Myanmar
Geneva
23 June 2014