# POLITICAL MONITOR NO. 22

## **OFFICIAL MEDIA**

#### CHINESE MINISTER OF PUBLIC SECURITY MENG MAKES OFFICIAL VISIT

Chinese Minister of Public Security and Member of the State Council Meng Jianzhu met President U Thein Sein in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 July, where they discussed the promotion and strengthening of a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, more cooperation in the prevalence of law and order and security measures in the Mekong region, cooperation in peace and stability of border areas and anti-narcotic drives and friendly cooperation in areas of mutual interest. Minister Meng also met Lower House Speaker U Shwe Mann and Defense Services Commander-in-Chief Vice Senior-General Min Aung Hlaing. They also stressed the need to maintain the special Pauk-Phaw friendship and to further strengthen cooperation in fighting transnational crime, the elimination of narcotic drugs and promoting matters of mutual interests. Both sides also recognized the need to enhance and promote the prevalence of peace and stability in the Mekong Delta region. In Yangon on 9 July, the Yangon Chief Minister U Myint Swe also met with Minister Meng.<sup>1</sup>

#### UNITED HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES MEETS BURMESE LEADERS

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Antonio Guterres met President U Thein Sein in Nay Pyi Taw on 11 July, where they discussed matters related to joint work programmes by Burma and the UNHCR in the Kachin, Kayin and Rakhine States. The UNHCR chief also met Vice-President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham, as well as the Speakers of both the Upper and Lower Houses and discussed cooperation in provision of assistance for those in refugee camps in Rakhine State as well as plans to assist Burmese migrant workers living in Thailand.<sup>2</sup>

## NEW US AMBASSADOR MITCHELL PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT

The newly-accredited Ambassador of the United States of America to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Derek James Mitchell presented his credentials to President U Thein Sein on 12 July in Nay Pyi Taw. From August 2011 to June 2012, Ambassador Mitchell served as the first Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Burma, with the rank of ambassador. Prior to this appointment he served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Asian and Pacific Security Affairs, in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, from April 2009 until August 2011.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> President U Thein Sein receives member of State Council and Minister of Public Security of PRC and party – <u>http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-11.pdf</u> (NLM) 11 July 2012 (p. 1) / Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw receives member of State Council and Minister of Public Security of PRC – <u>http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-11.pdf</u> (NLM) 11 July 2012 (p. 1) / Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives, member of State Council and Minister of Public Security of PRC – <u>http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-11.pdf</u> (NLM) 11 July 2012 (p. 2) / Yangon Region Chief Minister meets Chinese guests –

 http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-11.pdf (NLM) 11 July 2012 (p. 9)
President U Thein Sein receives United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and party – http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-12.pdf (NLM) 12 July 2012 (p. 1) / Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives UNHCR delegation – http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-12.pdf (NLM) 12 July 2012 (p. 8) / Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives UNHCR Mr Antonio Guterres and party – http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-12.pdf (NLM) 12 July 2012 (p. 2) / Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives UNHCR delegation – http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-12.pdf (NLM) 12 July 2012 (p. 2) /

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Ambassador of the United States of America – <u>http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-12.pdf</u> (NLM) 12 July 2012 (p. 1) / Press Release: Announcing the Arrival of Ambassador Derek J. Mitchell, U.S. Ambassador to Burma – <u>http://photos.state.gov/libraries/burma/895/pdf/07112012ArrivalofAmbassadorMitchell.pdf</u> (US Embassy, Yangon) – 11 July 2012

## THAI DEFENCE FORCES CHIEF TANASAK MAKES OFFICAL VISIT

Royal Thai Defence Forces Chief General Tanasak Patimapragorn recently led a delegation to Burma, where he met President U Thein Sein on 9 July and discussed the promotion and strengthening of existing ties between the two countries as well as the armed forces. General Tanasak also met his counterpart Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and agreed on the need to strengthen the friendship between the two countries and stressed further collaboration between the two armed forces.<sup>4</sup>

#### LOWER HOUSE SPEAKER VISITS AREAS IN RAKHINE STATE AFFECTED BY SECTARIAN VIOLENCE

Lower House Speaker Thura Shwe Mann accompanied by MPs and government officials toured areas in Rakhine State which were affected by the recent sectarian unrest. The parliamentary group visited the state capital Sittwe as well as relief camps in Maungdaw and Rathedaung townships, where the communal violence occurred in June, and reassured locals that law and order was being restored and that lessons should be taken to prevent such unrest from occurring in the future. The Hluttaw Representatives donated 12,930,000 kyat (nearly \$15,000) and the ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) donated 20 million kyat (\$23,000) to the reconstruction projects.<sup>5</sup>

#### BURMESE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ISSUES STATEMENT ON RAKHINE STATE

The National Human Rights Commission of Burma released a statement in the state-run media on 11 July urging the government to take effective action to punish those responsible for the sectarian violence and to provide further aid to people seeking safety in government-run camps. According to the statement, a team from the National Human Rights Commission visited areas in Rakhine State from 27 June to 1 July to hold discussions with officials, religious leaders and victims of the violent unrest in June. In addition to recommending action to be taken against those responsible, the Commission also recommended programmes to be implemented in the Rakhine State including:

- steps to build mutual trust among the victims of the violence between the Buddhist and Muslims communities
- a special programme to enhance the basic education of the children in the affected areas for the building of mutual trust
- more assistance and support for those affected by the violent unrest

(Please see Annex A for the full text of the Statement.)<sup>6</sup>

## MON PARTY RE-REGISTERS AFTER 22-YEAR ABSENCE

Please see Annex B for the full text of the official announcement.

*Unofficial:* The Mon National Democratic Front, an ethnic Mon party that was disbanded 22 years ago, has re-registered as an officially recognized party under a new name. The party, now known as the Mon Democracy Party, plans to open offices in towns and cities throughout Mon State. Its return means that there are now two ethnic Mon parties in the state. The other, the All Mon Regions Democracy Party, won 16 parliamentary seats in 2010. Despite calls to merge the two parties, such a move is seen as unlikely in the near future.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Mon Democracy Party allowed to register as political party – <u>http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-11.pdf</u> (NLM) 11 July 2012 (p. 9) / Mon Party Re-registers after 22 Years – <u>http://www.irrawaddy.org/archives/8940</u> (Irrawaddy) 12 July 2012

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> President U Thein Sein receives Chief of Royal Thai Defence Forces and party – <u>http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-10.pdf</u> (NLM) 10 July 2012 (p. 1) / Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Chief of Royal Thai Defence Forces – <u>http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-10.pdf</u> (NLM) 10 July 2012 (p. 7)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker comforts, presents aids to local people at relief camps in Rakhine State – <u>http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-09.pdf</u> (NLM) 9 July 2012 (p. 1 & 8)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Statement No. (4/2012) of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission concerning incidents in Rakhine State in June 2012 – <u>http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-11.pdf</u> (NLM) 11 July 2012 (p. 10)

Euro-Burma Office Political Monitor 2012

## **HLUTTAW SESSIONS – Highlights**

## Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) sessions

The <u>4<sup>th</sup> regular session of the First Pyithu Hluttaw</u> was held for the <u>2<sup>nd</sup> day</u> at the Pyithu Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw and attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 413 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives. <u>One urgent proposal was submitted, 8 questions answered, reports</u> <u>presented, 2 new proposals and 1 bill submitted, and 1 bill passed.</u> The key issues were:

- <u>U Tin Maung Win of Mingladon Constituency (USDP</u>) submitted **a proposal to introduce a Law on Disable Persons Rights.** The session agreed to discuss the matter on 9 July.
- The Education Research Bill and the Examination Board Bills were discussed.<sup>8</sup>

During the <u>3<sup>rd</sup> day session</u>, <u>8 questions were raised and answered</u>, <u>1 proposal discussed and 1 proposal submitted</u>. The key issues were:

- <u>U Kyi Myint of Latha Constituency (NDF)</u> inquired on the amount of agricultural loans made and collected and if there were plans to change the loans policy. The <u>Deputy Minister for</u> <u>Agriculture & Irrigation U Khin Zaw</u> responded that a total of K 352.722 billion and K390.913 billion had been provided by the government and the Myanma Agricultural Development Bank, and that there no plans yet to change the current loan policy.
- <u>U Thein Lwin of Chauk Constituency (USDP)</u> submitted the proposal **"urging the Union** government to coordinate, supervise and manage Myanmar's energy sector more effectively".<sup>9</sup>

During the 4<sup>th</sup> day session, 8 questions were raised, 3 reports discussed, 1 proposal discussed, 1 new proposal submitted and 1 bill approved. The key issues were:

- <u>U Myo Swe of Tanai Constituency (USDP)</u> asked if there were plans to permit small scale mining in accordance with existing laws. <u>Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik</u> replied that gold and mineral mining are permitted, while taking into account ecological and environmental factors. Lonekhin, Phakant, Mohnyin and Mawlu Mawhan regions in Kachin State had been designated as mining regions and permits granted for excavation according to the law.
- <u>U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency (NDF)</u> asked if "there is any plan to grant (prisoners) amnesty". <u>Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint</u> responded that on 3 July a government amnesty was granted, which included 80 prisoners as well as 34 foreign prisoners.<sup>10</sup>

During the 5<sup>th</sup> day session, 8 questions were answered, and 1 proposal and 2 bills submitted. The key issue was:

- <u>U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency (NDF)</u> submitted **the Bill on Provoking Law on Law** Enforcement Officers Protection Act-1850 (Indian Act No. 18).<sup>11</sup>

During the 6<sup>th</sup> day session, <u>8 questions were answered</u>, <u>1 proposal discussed</u>, <u>2 motions tabled and 1</u> <u>bill passed</u>. The key issue was:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Fourth regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw continues for second day / One urgent proposal submitted and informed to Hluttaw, eight questions answered, reports submitted, two new proposals and one bill submitted, one bill passed – <u>http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-06.pdf</u> (NLM) 6 July 2012 (p. 1 & 8)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Fourth regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw continues for third day / Eight questions answered, one proposal discussed and one proposal submitted –

http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-07.pdf (NLM) 7 July 2012 (p. 1 & 8)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Fourth regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw continues for fourth day / Eight questions raised, three reports discussed, one proposal discussed, one new proposal submitted, one bill approved – <a href="http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-10.pdf">http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-10.pdf</a> (NLM) 10 July 2012 (p. 16 & 8)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Pyithu Hluttaw meeting continues for fifth day / Eight questions answered, one proposal and two bills submitted – <u>http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-11.pdf</u> (NLM) 11 July 2012 (p. 16 & 8)

Euro-Burma Office **6 – 13 July 2012** Political Monitor 2012

- <u>U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency (NDF)</u> submitted a proposal **to establish a** commission to investigate the causes of the recent strikes which occurred in Yangon Region and to seek a solution without affecting foreign investments.<sup>12</sup>

### Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) sessions

The  $4^{th}$  regular session of the first Amyotha Hluttaw continued for the  $2^{nd}$  day at Hluttaw Building and was attended by Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and 215 MPs. 4 <u>questions were answered, 1 bill</u> was discussed, 2 bills were approved and two motions were submitted. The key issues were:

- Approval and amendments to the Social Security Bill.
- <u>Dr. Aye Maung of Rakhine State Constituency No. 1 (RNDP)</u> tabled a motion urging the Union Government to include the national race ministers and chairmen of leading bodies for selfadministered zones & regions to be appointed to the cabinets in the Region/State governments.<sup>13</sup>

During the <u>3<sup>rd</sup> day session</u>, <u>6 questions were raised answered</u>, <u>2 proposals submitted</u>. The key issue was:

- <u>U Thein Win of Sagaing Region Constituency No. 9 (USDP)</u> submitted the proposal "urging the Union government to initiate reforms for development of financial and legal infrastructures while drafting monetary and investment bill in developing monetary and capital markets".<sup>14</sup>

During the <u>4<sup>th</sup> day session</u>, <u>6 questions were raised and answered</u>, <u>2 proposals submitted</u>. The key issue was:

 <u>Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No. 8 (USDP)</u> asked if the government has adopted an employment policy to tackle poverty alleviation and if action plans had been adopted to improve standard of working conditions for workers. Labour Minister U Aung Kyi replied that a seven-point employment policy was being drawn up by the Labour Ministry to upgrade existing laws to be in line with international norms.<sup>15</sup>

During the  $5^{th}$  day session 5 questions were raised and answered and 1 proposal submitted. The key issue was:

- <u>U Phone Myint Aung of Yangon Region Constituency No.3 (NDF)</u> submitted the proposal **"urging** the Union Government to draft and enact new law on Civil House Rental Business Development and to withdraw Civil Rent Supervisory Act (1960)".<sup>16</sup>

During the <u>6<sup>th</sup> day session</u>, <u>five questions raised and answered and one new proposal submitted</u>. The key proposal discussed included:

- <u>Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No.8 (USDP)</u> submitted the proposal **"urging the Union Government to draw and start implementing development plan for least-development national races"**.<sup>17</sup>

http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-11.pdf (NLM) 11 July 2012 (p. 16 & 9)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Pyithu Hluttaw session continues for sixth day / Eight questions answered, one proposal discussed, two proposals tabled, one bill passed – <u>http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-12.pdf</u> (NLM) 12 July 2012 (p. 9)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Fourth regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw continues for second day / Four questions answered, one bill discussed, two bills approved, two proposals submitted –

http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-06.pdf (NLM) 6 July 2012 (p. 1 & 9)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Fourth regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw continues for third day / Six questions answered, two proposals submitted – <u>http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-07.pdf</u> (NLM) 7 July 2012 (p. 16 & 9)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Fourth regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw continues for fourth day / Six questions answered, two proposals put forward – <u>http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-10.pdf</u> (NLM) 10 July 2012 (p. 16 & 9)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Fourth regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw continues for fifth day / Five questions answered, one proposal submitted, decision made for discussion of proposal –

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Amyotha Hluttaw session continues for sixth day / Five questions answered, one new proposal submitted – http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-12.pdf (NLM) 12 July 2012 (p. 10)

6 – 13 July 2012

Euro-Burma Office Political Monitor 2012

## **UNOFFICIAL MEDIA**

#### PRESIDENT: GOVERNMENT WILL NOT RECOGNISE ROHINGYA

President Thein Sein said to the visiting United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Antonio Guterres that the government will not recognize the Rohingya who "[pose] a threat to national security" and that it is considering handing over the ethnic group to the UNHCR. He added that the "Bengalis were brought into Burma to work as farmhands by the English colonialists before the [country's] independence in 1948", and that in accordance with Burmese Law only a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation [immigrant] descended from those who came into Burma before 1948 are recognized as a citizen. "Burma will take responsibility for its ethnic nationalities but it is not at all possible to recognize the illegal border-crossing Rohingyas who are not an ethnic [group] in Burma." As a last resort, the president said the government would set up refugee camps for eventual repatriation to third countries that are willing to take them. The recent violence Rakhine State left almost 100 dead according to official tallies and displaced nearly 90,000 people. The UN views the Rohingya as one of the most persecuted minority groups in the world, while a majority of the Burmese populace views them as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.<sup>18</sup>

## NASAKA COMMANDER SUMMONED TO NAY PYI TAW

The commander of the border security force Nasaka based in Maungdaw, Arakan State was summoned by the authorities in Naypyidaw on 7 July after allegations surfaced that he had taken money from the rioters who carried out the recent violent attacks in Maungdaw. According to a police officer from Maungdaw, Colonel Aung Gyi was summoned to Naypyidaw to be questioned on recent unrest in Maungdaw. He added that local people, including government officials, believed that many Arakanese villages in Maungdaw were burned down by the perpetrators of the recent attacks because of the negligence of Colonel Aung Gyi. According to departmental officials in Maungdaw, many have criticized the performance of the Nasaka commander and his handling of the recent sectarian violence in Rakhine State.<sup>19</sup>

#### ARAKAN LEAGUE FOR DEMOCRACY (ALD) ELECTS NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The Arakan League for Democracy (ALD) has elected a new 15-member central committee in its recent plenary meeting attended by party CEC members on 6 July in Sittwe. According to the new party President U Aye Thar Aung, the ALD's policies are to establish self-autonomy and a genuine federal union, and to end civil war and bringing peace to all the ethnic regions. He added that the party would also work to promote the interests and rights of farmers and workers alike. The party also has plans to establish unions for both farmers and workers in order to better represent them in securing their basic rights. The ALD is planning to open party offices in all 17 townships in Rakhine State, but regarding the 2015 elections the ALD President said the CEC would meet to decide whether they would participate.<sup>20</sup> (Please see Annex C for the new ALD Central Committee list).

#### 2 DEAD, 6 WOUNDED FOLLOWING KIA ASSAULT IN NORTHERN SHAN STATE

An attack by the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) against a Burma army convoy left 2 soldiers dead and wounded 6 others in northern Shan state on 8 July. According to officials from the KIA's 4th Brigade, the raid by troops this brigade took place along the road between Nam Kham and Muse, and 2 trucks were also destroyed in the attack. In addition, on 6 July, 4 government police officers were killed when KIA troops opened fire on a police station in Hka Lum village near Pangsai, also Kyukok in Northern Shan state. The rest of the police escaped to China during the attack and the KIA troops seized 4 guns and ammunition. Talks between government negotiators and representatives

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup>Government will not recognize Rohingya: Thein Sein –

http://www.dvb.no/news/gov%E2%80%99t-will-not-recognise-rohingya-thein-sein/22875 (DVB) 12 July 2012

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Nasaka commander summoned to Naypyitaw – <u>http://www.narinjara.com/main/index.php/nasaka-commander-summoned-to-naypyidaw/</u> (Narinjara) 12 July 2012 20

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> ALP appoints new central committee members – <u>http://www.narinjara.com/main/index.php/ald-appoints-new-central-committee-members/</u> (Narinjara) 12 July 2012

Euro-Burma Office Political Monitor 2012

from the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) are planned for later in July. During the week before the attack, the KIO had declined the government's request to meet in government territory.<sup>21</sup>

#### ANALYSIS

The appointment and arrival of the new US ambassador to Burma has paved the way for improving bilateral relations. The presence of the US in the country is seen by some as part of a plan or strategy in containing both China and India. While this cannot be entirely ruled out, the improvement in ties between Burma and the USA is crucial for the Burmese to be able to return to their historical 'non-aligned' position in international affairs. Thailand and China are maintaining their presence by dispatching high-ranking officials on a regular basis. At such a critical juncture in time when democratic forms are slowly taking shape, the recent sectarian unrest in Rakhine State has cast a dark cloud on the reform process.

When President Thein Sein spelled out his position regarding the Rohingya issue after his meeting with the UNHCR chief Guterres that

"only the third generation [immigrant] descendants from those who came into Burma before 1948 would be recognized as citizens and that Burma would take responsibility for its ethnic nationalities but it is not at all possible to recognize the illegal border-crossing Rohingyas who are not an ethnic group in Burma"

he was merely reiterating the position as defined by the 1982 Citizenship Law and repeating the long-held false Burmese nationalistic view that the Rohingya are foreigners. Yes, there are illegal migrants along the Bangladesh border as there are with all of Burma's borders, but the majority of the Rohingya have lived in Burma for generations. They were considered citizens until General Ne Win introduced the citizenship law and rendered many of them stateless in their own country. As for the President's reported offer to hand over the Rohingya to the UNHCR, it is patent nonsense because the Rohingya in Burma may be internally displaced but they are not refugees. Therefore, the government will now need to put in place measures to prevent further unrest from occurring again, while also finding a solution to address the Rohingya issue permanently. Perhaps a national debate on nationhood and citizenship is needed as part of the current peace process. The tasks to be implemented and challenges now confronting President Thein Sein during the remainder of his tenure in office will not be easy. In order to overcome these challenges, he will need the support of not only his government, but also the military and the population in general. Without such support and the support of the international community, the reforms he launched may come to nothing.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Two dead, six wounded following KIA assault in N. Shan state – <u>http://www.kachinnews.com/news/2343-two-dead-six-wounded-following-kia-assault-in-n-shan-state.html</u> (Kachin News Group) 11 July 2012

Euro-Burma Office Political Monitor 2012

# **APPENDICES**

## Appendix A:

## Statement No. (4/2012) of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Concerning Incidents in Rakhine State in June 2012

A team from the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, comprising the Secretary and two Members, visited Sittway, Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yathedaung Townships in the Rakhine State from 27 June to 1 July and held discussions with the responsible persons, religious leaders and the victims.

It is found that unexpected and unimaginable incidents occurred in the Rakhine State on 28 March and 3 June. The acts of violence that started in certain villages in Maungtaw Township led to acts of violence between the two groups of people. On learning these incidents of violence, the entire population was grieved. The public, the Government and the international community expressed concern. Similarly, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission was also concerned about the said violations of human rights. It was found that the loss and sufferings on both sides took a heavy toll on the victims not only physically but also mentally.

The Union Government and the Rakhine State Government have been taking measures setting up relief stations, 11 in Maungtaw and its township, 57 in Sittway and its township, 4 in Yathedaung, totaling 72 stations. It was learned that relief stations are set up at 56 Buddhist monasteries, out of a total of 72 stations. All the Rakhine nationals from the relief stations in Buthidaung and Ponnagyun have been safely returned to their respective areas and villages. It was noted that the basic needs of food, clothing, shelter and health of the victims at the above-mentioned relief stations are being met, relying on the availability of the contributions, foodstuff and materials being provided by the Union Government, the State Government, United Nations Agencies, International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), Non-Governmental Organizations, entrepreneurs, artists and well-wishers. The Tatmadaw (the Armed Forces), the Police Force and the Border Immigration Headquarters are providing security for the respective areas and stations. It was observed that the stability and security are improving in the townships that the Commission team had visited. In order to restore normalcy to the situation in the Northern part of Rakhine State, the following programmes are recommended for long-term tasks:

- the measures to build the rule of law be strengthened and just and effective actions be taken in accordance with law against the perpetrators of the acts of violence that had occurred;
- steps should be taken to build mutual trust for the physical and mental rehabilitation of the victims of the two groups of people;
- a special programme should be undertaken to enhance the basic education of the children in the affected areas for the building of mutual trust and enrichment of intelligence and knowledge.
- It is pleasing to observe that the basic needs of the victims from the affected areas are being met by the assistance and support extended by various organizations and well-wishers. In view of the continuing basic needs, it is urged that more assistance and support be provided.

The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Date-11 July 2012<sup>22</sup>

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Statement No. (4/2012) of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission concerning incidents in Rakhine State in June
2012 -<u>http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-11.pdf</u> (NLM) 11 July 2012 (p. 10)

Euro-Burma Office 6 – 13 July 2012

Euro-Burma Office Political Monitor 2012

### **Appendix B:**

#### MON DEMOCRACY PARTY REGISTRATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Nay Pyi Taw

#### Announcement No. 34/2012

#### 7th Waning of First Waso, 1374 ME

#### (10<sup>th</sup> July, 2012)

#### Mon Democracy Party allowed to register as political party

The Union Election Commission announced today that Mon Democracy Party headquartered at No.181, Yazadarit Street, Myaingthaya Ward, Mawlamyine Township, Mon State, is allowed to register as a political party as of 10 July, 2012 in accord with Section 9 of Political Parties Registration Law. The party's registration number is 58.

#### By order, Win Ko Secretary Union Election Commission<sup>23</sup>

#### **Appendix C:**

## Arakan League for Democracy (ALD) Central Committee

#### Elected on 6 July 2012<sup>24</sup>

Sr.	Name	Designation/Portfolio
1.	U Thar Ban	Patron
2.	U Aye Thar Aung	President
3.	U Aye Kyaw	Vice-President
4.	U Shwe Ohn	Central Committee Member
5.	Daw Tin Nyo Aung	Central Committee Member
6.	U Myo Kyaw	Central Committee Member
7.	U Tun Nyo	Central Committee Member
8.	U Hla Maung	Central Committee Member
9.	U Kyaw Tun Aung	Central Committee Member
10.	U Kyaw Zaw Oo	Central Committee Member
11.	U Saw Tun Sein (Pauktaw)	Central Committee Member
12.	U Maung Myint (Minbya)	Central Committee Member
13.	U Khin Maung (Gwa)	Central Committee Member
14.	U Saw Maung	Secretary (1)
15.	U Kyaw Myint	Secretary (2)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Mon Democracy Party allowed to register as political party – <u>http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-11.pdf</u> (NLM) 11 July 2012 (p. 9)

ALD appoints new central committee members – http://www.narinjara.com/main/index.php/ald-appoints-new-central-committee-members/ (Narinjara) 12 July 2012