

## APOLOGY

On Friday 22 March 2013, the Euro-Burma Office sent out a worldwide alert in order to stop the communal killings in Meiktila and Mandalay. We were aware that tensions between Buddhist and Muslim communities had been building for some time. In the interest of time and the urgency to stop the killings, we did not edit the reports or editorialize. We sent out the reports from usually reliable sources verbatim. In hindsight, we should have deleted the allegations against NLD members in Mandalay. The oversight was inexcusable. I was in between flights when I received the news and acted immediately. I, personally, and the Euro-Burma Office as a whole, apologize to the NLD members named and to the NLD as a whole. Our sole intention was to stop the killings. Our intention was not to damage the reputation of the NLD.

The international community has reacted swiftly and the Government has declared a state of emergency in Meiktila. However, this may not be enough. The unrest has moved to other locations. Some Buddhist monks have been actively instigating anti-Muslim activities. However, we do not believe that this is a Buddhist-Muslim conflict. Both Buddhists and Muslims have suffered from the communal violence. Some NLD members, Buddhist monasteries and 88 Generation students are actively protecting Muslim victims and trying to defuse the situation. However, since the violence appears to be well-planned and systematically perpetrated, it could well be politically motivated. It should be urgently investigated by the authorities.

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