



**Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations**

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva and refers to the misleading remarks on Myanmar made by the Spokesperson for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at the bi-weekly press briefing on 17 November 2023.

Since the remarks made by the Spokesperson do not reflect the situation on the ground and amount to glorifying the armed groups, the Permanent Mission of Myanmar makes the following response: -

- Regarding the recent clashes, the armed groups led by MNDAA and its affiliates namely TNLA and AA committed coordinated attacks against civilian population and security forces in north-eastern part of Shan State and Rakhine State. Reckless attacks of the armed groups have been further exploited by NUG and PDF terrorist groups, with the support of ethnic armed groups namely KNU, KIA and KNPP in some parts of Kayin State, Sagaing Region and Kayah State. The armed groups particularly targeted the border areas to undermine Myanmar's relations with its neighbouring countries.
- The armed groups not only targeted the civilian population as they indiscriminately attacked residential areas and public places, but also killed and abducted civil servants and exploded civilian infrastructures.
- It is legitimate rights of Myanmar to counter such terror acts and its security forces have been taking necessary counter measures to restore peace and stability and public security of the affected areas.

- Due to the facts that the attacks by the armed groups took place in some cities in addition to the use of human shields by terrorists, the security forces have to limit their counter operations to minimize civilian casualties.
- The Tatmadaw announced a ceasefire to ensure enduring peace across the nation on 21 December 2018 and unilateral ceasefire continued in 2022 and 2023 with a total of 22 announcements. By August 2023, 71 rounds of discussions with NCA signatories, 25 rounds of talks with non-signatories, 23 with stakeholders, including political parties and seven rounds of discussions with peace negotiators, totalling 119 rounds have been held.
- The offensives by the armed groups have in fact weakened following their defeat and the security forces have been reopening major trade routes by rebuilding and repairing roads, bridges and overpasses destroyed by the armed groups.
- Instead of condemning terror acts committed by the armed groups and terrorist groups against local population and innocent people, the remarks by the Spokesperson incite such groups to further advance their attacks.

Accordingly, Myanmar Mission categorically rejects the remarks made by the Spokesperson for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on 17 November 2023.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



**Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**Geneva**