

25th Session of the Human Rights Council
Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in
Myanmar, 17 March 2014

Intervention by the Czech Republic

Mr. Special Rapporteur,

The Czech Republic would like to thank you for providing us with highly relevant information on the situation of human rights in Myanmar/Burma during your six years mandate. We have always appreciated your balanced approach, stressing positive developments without losing sight of shortcomings and setbacks.

With regard to your latest report, the Czech Republic welcomes the release of some 1100 prisoners of conscience since 2011 as it welcomes other reform steps undertaken. Nevertheless we keep stressing that the amnesties must be unconditional and followed by the full rehabilitation of persecuted dissenters. We are disconcerted by the reports that not only there are still some political prisoners remaining in detention but that there are new prisoners of conscience.

Mr. Special Rapporteur, could you please elaborate more on the numbers of new political prisoners, including detained human rights defenders and journalists, as well as on the type of activities for which they have been arrested?

The dire situation in Rakhine State worries us immensely. We urge the government of Myanmar/Burma to investigate all violent events, including the latest Du Cheer Yar Tan incidents, and bring those responsible to justice. The Czech Republic deplores the recent ban in some parts of the country on the operation of the Doctors without Borders, who provided primary health-care services, including immediate lifesaving activities. We are further concerned by the apparently inconclusive legal and factual situation of the Rohingya minority.

Finally, Mr. Special Rapporteur, the Czech Republic fully supports the large number of recommendations you have made concerning the necessary legislative changes in Myanmar/Burma, including the ratification of ICCPR. We in particular encourage the Government to enact the necessary constitutional and electoral reforms in order to enable free, fair and inclusive elections next year. We hope that the elections in 2015 will be an important milestone confirming the irreversibility of the country's transition towards democracy and respect for human rights.

Mr. Special Rapporteur, we would like to wish you all the best in your further activities.

Thank you.