

Human Rights Council – 44th session

Interactive Dialogue on oral update by HC on human rights situation of Rohingya people

30 June 2020

Australian Statement

We thank the High Commissioner for her update.

Australia remains deeply concerned about the escalating violence in Rakhine and southern Chin States, as well as ongoing conflict in Shan and Kachin States and in southeast Myanmar.

We urge the Myanmar military to expand its recent ceasefire announcement to include Rakhine and Chin States. We condemn unlawful attacks on police and civilian targets, especially women, children and health workers. We call on all sides to cease hostilities and comply with international humanitarian law.

We are deeply concerned that increased fighting has further impeded humanitarian access and call on Myanmar to ensure humanitarian actors have unhindered access to assist affected civilian populations.

Australia urges Myanmar to lift media and internet restrictions, including in Chin and Rakhine States. Improving the situation on the ground will help to create conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of displaced Rohingya.

We encourage Myanmar to implement its IDP camp closure strategy in close consultation with impacted communities.

Australia recognises the Government of Myanmar's efforts to ensure COVID-prevention efforts include internally displaced and conflict-affected communities. We have been pleased to support Myanmar's response to the pandemic.

We appreciate the significant humanitarian efforts made by countries in the region to support displaced persons, particularly the Government of Bangladesh.

Australia is encouraged by Myanmar's compliance to date with its obligations to report to the International Court of Justice. We continue to urge Myanmar's engagement with international accountability mechanisms, including the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar and the International Criminal Court.

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