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UNGA Third Committee
Item 74: Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in
Myanmar

Statement delivered on 23 October 2018

Thank you Mr Chair.

Australia thanks the Special Rapporteur for her report.

The report underlines the serious human rights challenges in Myanmar and the need for ongoing international engagement and assistance.

Australia will continue to support Myanmar's efforts to achieve a long-term and durable solution to the crisis in Rakhine State, and to consolidate democracy.

We call on Myanmar to restore cooperation with the Special Rapporteur without delay and to maintain cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Australia shares the Special Rapporteur's serious concerns about the grave human rights violations perpetrated against the Rohingya.

We are concerned, also, by ongoing fighting, displacement and restrictions on humanitarian access in other parts of Myanmar, particularly Shan and Kachin states.

We urge all parties to bring an end to the fighting, protect civilians and allow safe and unfettered access to humanitarian.

A free and independent media is a vital pillar of democracy.

Australia acknowledges progress since 2011, but remains concerned by ongoing constraints to media freedom, including the arrest of journalists from Reuters.

Australia is concerned by their ongoing detention and notes that their early release would signal important support for the democratic principle of media freedom.

Finally, Australia reiterates its commitment to supporting Myanmar in its efforts to address ongoing human rights challenges, achieve national peace and reconciliation, and transition to full democracy.