

Union Government to fully protect aid groups in Rakhine State

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 April— The Union Government has announced that it will provide aid groups from the UN and other international organizations with full security services and will cooperate with them on all levels.

In a press release from the Union Government on Tuesday regarding the investigation commission for the March 26-27 riots in Sittway, Rakhine State, the Union Government also pledged that it will form a support group for emergency situations as part of efforts to support local authorities and security forces as the response to the March 26-27 riots in Sittway, Rakhine State was now adequate, officials said.

The Union Government will expose the ringleaders and others involved in the riots which targeted the facilities of aid groups, with officials saying that serious action will be taken. According to the report of the investigation commission, instigators used the fact that Ms. Yvonne Dunton from the Malteser International organization took down a Buddhist flag outside her rented house as an excuse to start the violence, further straining the relations between local people and international aid groups.

The residences and facilities of the aid groups were destroyed during the riots due to a sluggish response from authorities, the report said. During the riots, 14 offices of 18 aid groups, 16 homes, 15 warehouses, 14 vehicles, 2 watercraft, 29 motorcycles and office equipment, valued at K 430 million and USD 430,000 were damaged.— *NLM*