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## NEWS RELEASE

- It is most regrettable that the Western media is in full swing to portray the recent situation in Myanmar as a full-blown crisis. In reality, it was started by a mere local incident in a town called Sittway by about 140 monks, who had staged a protest over the rising commodity prices.
- In order to avoid further deterioration of the situation, the curfew had been imposed in Yangon and Mandalay municipal areas since 25 September 2007. Directive 93 dated 23 September 2007 was issued by the Order of the highest-ranking sanghas, which is the regulatory body for the monkhood in Myanmar, urging the sanghas to refrain from secular affairs.
- About 70,000 monks reside in Yangon alone. The monks that took part in the recent unrest constitute a small percentage of the monks that reside all over Myanmar. The majority of the monks did not participate in the disturbances, strictly adhering to the religious duties.
- The Government of Myanmar has rendered full cooperation to Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, UN Secretary General's Special Envoy, who was dispatched to Myanmar in the wake of recent disturbances. As suggested by Mr. Gambari, the Government of Myanmar, by Announcement No. 2/2007 dated 8 October 2007, designated Deputy Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi as Minister for Relations to undertake liaison duties with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

- It is very unfortunate that confrontation had resulted between segments of the Myanmar society in the recent disturbances. If one would carefully monitor the situation, one would regretfully witness destructive elements exploiting the small group of frustrating monks for their political advantages and schemes. Their main purpose is to instigate unrest and confrontation with the authorities.
  
- Since conditions have been greatly improved in the country, curfew has been lifted since 19 October 2007.
  
- Up till present, out of 2927 individuals, who were detained and questioned for security reasons at the peak of the demonstrations, 2677 have been released, including 910 monks and one nun.

**Embassy of the Union of Myanmar,**  
Washington, D.C.  
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