



EMBASSY OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
2300 S STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-4089
TEL: (202) 332-9044

News Release

The United States Department of State has once again made it its business to paint unfairly a one-sided picture of human rights practices in the Union of Myanmar. Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: the U.S. Record 2004-2005; issued in Washington, D.C. on 28 March 2005 is nothing but a compilation of allegations, without taking note of the true situation in the country.

Any objective observer can see the accomplishments that the Government of Myanmar has achieved in the political, economic and social spheres in Myanmar. The very fact that representatives from all stratas of the Myanmar society, including those of various organizations that have returned to the legal fold are working together in the National Convention for the emergence of a new Constitution is a testimony of the importance that the entire Myanmar people attach to this process. The fruitful discussions and deliberations among the representatives at the National Convention were faithfully reported in the media and this belies the accusations contained in the report concerning the National Convention. Before it was adjourned on 1st May, the National Convention has successfully laid down detailed basic principles for distribution of the legislative power and the formation of Financial Commission. Given the fact that there is a long history of deep-seated mistrust and hostilities among these representatives, this is no small achievement. Moreover, the decision of non-participation in the National Convention was made by the National League for Democracy itself.

The seriousness of the Government of Myanmar in combating narcotics and trafficking in persons can also be seen by the measures it has taken in these fields. Myanmar cooperates with its neighbours in the region to effectively suppress these crimes in transnational dimensions. In addition to combating narcotics, in the field of trafficking in persons, Myanmar has laid down a comprehensive framework comprising national legislation and a national plan of action supported by serious commitment from the highest authorities. To implement the National Plan of Action on combating trafficking in persons, Myanmar is actively cooperating with United Nations agencies such as UNICEF, UNODC and INGOs and NGOs such as Save the Children (UK) and World Vision. A truthful record with sincere goodwill for the cause of human rights should give credit to the efforts made by Myanmar in these areas. Similarly, the accusations made against Myanmar in such areas as religious freedom and minority issues are equally groundless.

One should bear in mind that there is no perfect society and that the efforts made by a small country like Myanmar for national reconciliation and development as well as for the welfare of its people should be welcomed. Just issuing sweeping and groundless accusations is counterproductive to the cause of human rights and democracy.

The Government and people of the Union of Myanmar are systematically working towards the emergence of a new democratic state where political discipline will be fully institutionalized.

The report of the United States Department of State can only be regarded as a politically motivated attempt to maintain pressure on Myanmar and to interfere in the domestic affairs of the country.

The Embassy of the Union of Myanmar in Washington, D.C, therefore categorically rejects the record on human rights in Myanmar by the United States Department of State.

Dated : 7 April 2005.

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