



Press Statement

The Situation in the Rakhine State

The situation in Rakhine State has been the focus of the world attention in recent weeks. The Government of Myanmar fully shares the concern of the international community regarding the displacement and suffering of all communities affected by the latest escalation of violence ignited by the acts of terrorism committed by the extremist group known as the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) in Northern Rakhine State on 25 August 2017.

The fresh round of violence was the result of simultaneous and coordinated attacks by the terrorists on 30 police outposts in Northern Rakhine State. The ARSA, which has been independently verified to be externally funded and inspired organization, has claimed responsibility for the attacks. The same group has also claimed responsibility for the attacks initiated on 9 October 2016. The brutal acts of terrorism which targeted not only the Myanmar security forces but also innocent civilians must be unequivocally condemned. Acts of terrorism cannot be condoned for any reason.

The Government of Myanmar strongly condemns the vicious acts of terrorism and has declared the ARSA a terrorist group. The Government welcomes the statements issued by the United Nations and a number of countries firmly condemning the terrorist attacks.

The attacks of August 2017 were deliberately timed to coincide with the release of the final report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine led by Mr. Kofi Annan. It is evident that the latest terror campaign is an attempt to