

United Nations Human Rights Council

23rd Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review

Review of Myanmar

Geneva, 6 November 2015

Statement by AUSTRIA

Austria welcomes the delegation of Myanmar to the UPR and thanks it for the presentation of its national report.

While we recognize positive steps taken since the last review, Austria remains gravely concerned about reports of widespread and systematic human rights violations, including violence and discrimination against ethnic minorities, persecution of political opposition activists and human rights defenders as well as ongoing gender discrimination in law and in practice.

We are also deeply concerned about laws which unreasonably restrict the right to freedom of expression and assembly and which are increasingly used to criminalize and silence journalists and human rights defenders.

Austria therefore offers the following recommendations:

- Take immediate steps to end violence and discrimination against national or ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities;
- Amend the new Media Law and the 2014 Printing and Publications Law in compliance with international human rights standards;
- Guarantee in law and in practice that lawyers and judges can perform their professional functions without improper interference and to legally form and join self-governing professional associations;
- Adopt a legal definition of discrimination against women according to the CEDAW;
- Ratify CAT, CRPD, ICERD as well as the Rome Statute of the ICC.