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***ICELAND***

***Statement by Mr. Thordur Sigtryggsson***



***UPR 23. Session - November 2015***

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Iceland warmly welcomes the delegation of Myanmar and acknowledges some important and positive developments since their 2011 Review.

On discrimination, we welcome the Government’s Rakhine State Action Plan from early 2015. However, we note that under the 1982 citizenship law, full citizenship is dependent on a person’s membership in a national ethnic group. This is our view constitutes discrimination based on race against non-members and should be remedied.

Further, my Delegation is concerned over reports of ongoing and growing instances of religious violence and failures to investigate attacks based on national, racial and religious hatred.

Iceland recommends to Myanmar the following:

1. Amend the 1982 Citizenship Law to give the Rohingya access to full citizenship rights.
2. Ensure independent investigations of all cases of violence and discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities.
3. Prosecute suspected perpetrators of violence against ethnic and religious minorities, in line with international standards and ensure compliance with due process and respect for the rule of law.