

Human Rights Now



**Oral statement on Interactive Dialogue under agenda item 4
UN Human Rights Council 22nd Session,
Geneva, 25 February-22 March 2013
Speaker: Ms Kazuko Ito**

Human Rights Violations in Myanmar

Mr. President

Human Rights Now¹ welcomes the work of the Special rapporteur, Mr. Quintana.

We are gravely concerned over the continuing human rights violations in Myanmar, especially in ethnic minority areas. Fighting has been continuing in ethnic areas such as Rakain, Kachin and Northern Shan states, where grave human rights violations, such as killings, rapes and tortures by the Myanmar military have been reported.

Since the government of Myanmar prioritizes ceasefire over inclusive peace agreements, ethnic minorities receive no concrete rights even after ceasefires.

In many regions where ceasefires have been adopted, the military continuously and increasingly occupy instead of withdrawing. In such areas, the ethnic minorities has still been are subjected to serious human rights violations.

Moreover, under the name of development, ethnic minorities have been deprived of their resources and lands and lost their foundation of lives. Such incidents are reported throughout Myanmar, where development of mines, ports, pipelines and industry zone have accelerated with the involvement of army. People living in designated area are forced to relocate without any compensation.

If foreign aid and investments increase without human rights safeguard, particularly in ethnic minority areas, it will become another cause of human rights violation.

We urge the government of Myanmar to protect the fundamental human rights of the people and effectively control over the military to prevent grave human rights violations especially in ethnic minority area.

Also, we call all relevant states and business enterprises to double check the human rights impact of their all projects in order to protect human rights of local people.

Mr. President, human rights situation in Myanmar is still very serious.

We call for the Human Rights Council to continue its mandate on this matter under Agenda Item 4. We encourage the Special Rapporteur to continue to monitor human rights violations throughout the Myanmar.²

Thank you.

¹ International human rights NGO with ECOSOC special consultative status based in Tokyo. www.hrn.or.jp/eng

² Burma(Myanmar) Lawyers Council, without the UN consultative status shares the same view with this oral statement.