

Investigation Commission on Maungtaw released its Interim Report on 3 January, 2017.

Following is the full text of the interim report

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Investigation Commission on Maungtaw

6th Waxing day of Pyatho 1378 ME

3rd January 2017

Interim Report of the Investigation Commission on Maungtaw

Introduction

1. This Maungtaw Region Investigation Commission was established with 13 persons by Presidential Order No.89/2016 dated 1-12-2016. It was tasked to investigate and find out the background situation and uncover the truth about the terrorists attacks which occurred on 9th October, and 12th and 13th November, 2016 and also to make an assessment and give recommendations to prevent such incidents from occurring again in the future.

2. The Commission held three meetings, went on a field trip for the first time to the 10 villages and 4 Security Camps, and interviewed Security Police, Government Staff, Administrative Organizations, villagers from different community based organizations, and community elders. It also issued two Press Releases.

Incident on 9th October 2016

3. At about 1:30 am on 9th October, 2016, about 100 violent attackers carried out a surprise attack on No. 1 Border Outpost Headquarters (Kyikanpyin) in Maungtaw Township. Meanwhile, at 3:30 am, about 30 armed men attacked the Kotankaung Border Outpost in Yathedaung Township and at 4:30 am, about 50 armed men attacked Ngakhuya Border Outpost using guns, machetes and slingshots for shooting iron projectile. In the surprise attacks, nine policemen were killed and six policemen, a wife of a policeman and one civilian were injured, and assorted arms including 52 arms and ammunition were lost. Two violent attackers were captured with one hand-made weapon and eight bodies of attackers were found.

Incident on 12 November 2016

4. At about 6:45 am on 12 November, 2016, when combined troops comprising members of the Tatmadaw and the Myanmar Police Force arrived near Mayintaung Village, about 70 violent attackers armed with guns, machetes and spears came out from hiding in the forest and ambushed the troops. In the fighting, one soldier was killed and an officer and another soldier were injured. Six violent attackers were found dead and one gun and some ammunition were seized in the

incident. Upon arrival at Pwintphyuchaung Village at 10:30 am, the security forces found that some houses were on fire. At 10:55 am, violent attackers detonated a mine on a bailey bridge near Maungnamataung Village, attacking a convoy carrying police and employees of the Immigration and Population Department and also fired at the convoy. At 2:15 pm, about 800 violent attackers armed with guns, machetes and spears came out of Gwazon Village and nearby villages and attacked security forces, killing one commanding officer and injuring two soldiers. As the troops were under attack, two MI-2 helicopters fired on the violent attackers to disperse the attackers. At 3:20 pm, armed attackers carried out a mine attack on a car carrying police at Phawkitaung Bridge. Violent attackers also carried out a mine attack on a convoy carrying security forces at 4:50 pm.

Incident on 13 November 2016

5. At about 9 am on 13 November, border guard police and security forces conducted an area clearance operation in Gwazon Village and found about 50 burnt houses. In the operation, seven attackers armed with machetes carried out a surprise attack on the security forces and the security forces returned fire, killing six attackers. At 1:00 pm, as border guard forces entered Dargyzaung (Taung) Village, they were ambushed by 25 attackers armed with clubs and machetes and the security forces returned fire killing 19 violent attackers. About 4:30 pm, acting on a tip-off that about 10 violent attackers were in Wabeik Village, security forces conducted an area clearance operation in the village. Violent attackers withdrew from the village during the operation and security forces found burning houses and extinguished them. In the incident, one mosque and several houses were not burnt.

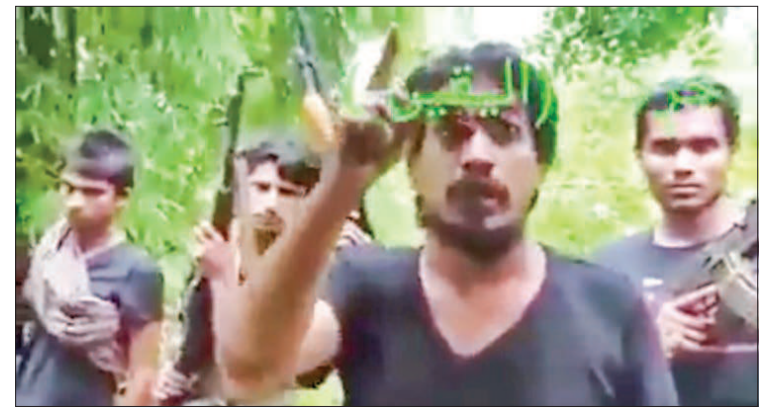
Persons who took a Leading Role in the Maungtaw incident

6. Violent armed attacks in the Maungtaw region were conducted by Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO)-linked Aqa Mul Mujahidin that operated in Maungtaw region. The leader of the group is Havid Tuhar, alias Arpu Hamad Zooluni, 45, a religious and racial extrem-

ist residing in Kyaukpyinseik village, in Maungtaw township. He attended a 6-month training programme conducted by Taliban extremists in Pakistan. Havid Tuhar sometimes used to live in a village near Teknaf in Bangladesh as well, taking asylum as a refugee who received monetary subsidies from organizations from Middle East countries. Those who cooperated with him were 12 people, including a Pakistani named Khalip, who resides in Bangladesh, who had been in Ngakhura village; Ibraheem, Azar and Arab Tular who are residing in the Kutapalong refugee camp in Bangladesh; Zubai and Islam, who are residing Nilar refugee camp. Starting five months ago, they entered Maungtaw region under the arrangement of Havid Tuhar. They conducted terrorist trainings to radicalised youths organised by Havid Tuhar, according to the confessions of three men who were arrested — Mamad Nurar, Mamad San and Phosolarmauk. After the armed attack, Havid Tuhar posted propaganda video files at least ten times to join him to launch wars in the Maungtaw area.

“Listen to me, all Rohingyas! If you want to save our Rohingya brethren residing in Rakhine State, come here, without living in your homes only. We will wage war. You are men. Never be afraid of death!” they announced their statement in the file.

The significant things about the present incident in Maungtaw region



“Havid Tuhar (a) Arpu Hamad Zooluni, the leader of terrorist group in Maungtaw region's propaganda first video file (12/10/2016). PHOTO: STATE COUNSELLOR

7. The present situation in Rakhine State is different from the previous armed attacks in that area. Previous incidents were conflicts among local people. The present situation is the kind of armed attacks harming the sovereignty of the State, conspired systematically by terrorists after 2012. As they are found to have connections with overseas organizations, it is more complicated.

8. The present incidents have been found to be a conspiratorial terrorist attack designed so that the international community will take an interest in the matter that has been manipulated by extremist organizations at home and abroad and by war-experienced persons subsidized by destructive elements who wanted to instigate the people.

9. According to confessions of the arrested suspects, it was found that some people and organizations from abroad are

giving monetary aids with the intention of igniting riots and conflicts in the country.

Assessment on External Allegations

10. As regards the external allegations, the commission made special investigations. The Bengali population residing in Maungtaw region, the increasing population of Mawlawi, mosques and religious edifices are proof that there were no cases of genocide and religious persecution in the region.

11. The Commission made special investigations into the allegations that there were rape cases, illegal arrests, torture and arsons in Bengali villages. Responsible security personnel performing their duties in those villages submitted that they have been ready to take legal action against those who committed crimes if there was sufficient evidence.

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Security forces are trying to control the fire at a house in Wabeik Village. PHOTO: STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE INFORMATION COMMITTEE

State Counsellor addresses meeting on Rakhine State Stability

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addressed the meeting on Stability and Development of Rakhine State at the Presidential Palace yesterday afternoon.

In her address, the State Counsellor said that the central committee for development of Rakhine State was formed at the end of May as the affairs of Rakhine State are so sensitive. As a result, the Rakhine State Advisory Commission, led by Dr Kofi Annan, has been formed. However, the situation in Maungtaw District has worsened since the 9th October violent attacks. The government has placed an emphasis on the stability of Maungtaw District at present as well as

Rakhine State in the long run. However, it should be cautioned that a new problem always occurs whenever stability has been restored in the region and it is important that the problems should be resolved in a correct manner and accusations should be refuted with the truth. In conclusion, the State Counsellor urged the central committee to address the issues with accountability.

Later, the secretary of the central committee reported on the implementation of the decisions of the previous meeting.

The Vice Chairman of the Central committee, Union Minister for the Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung reported to the meeting on situation on Rakhine



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses meeting on stability and development of Rakhine State. PHOTO: MNA

State, measures taken by respective ministries for the state and development of the region.

Another Vice Chairman of the central committee, Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pu, reported on the situation on relief and resettlement and requirements for regional stability.

Afterwards, Chairman of the Stability and the Rule of Law,

Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe reported on security affairs of the state.

Later, Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, Chairman of the Citizenship Scrutiny Committee, reported on issuance of the NVC cards. Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, Chairman of the Resettlement and Social De-

velopment Committee, and Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, Chairman of the Committee for International Cooperation and Cooperation with UN Agencies, reported on work done and future plans.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the State Counsellor.—*Myanmar News Agency*

State Counsellor entertains members of Italy-Myanmar Friendship Association with Traditional Foods



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for photo together with members of the Italy-Myanmar Friendship Association. PHOTO: MNA

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor, entertained 38 members of the Giuseppe Malpeli Association for Italy-Burma Friendship led by Ms Albertina Soliani with Myanmar traditional foods at her residence in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

After greeting each member of the association individually, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shared Myanmar cuisine, exchanged presents with the members and posed for photos with her guests.

The Giuseppe Malpeli Association for Italy-Burma Friendship includes members of the Italian Parliament such as Albertina Soliani, a senator, plus lawyers, engineers, teachers and students.

The association was formed in Parma, Italy in 2004. The aim of the association is to cooperate with Myanmar in the sectors of education, development of children and women and strengthening the democratic system of the country.

The association has donated money for the construction of a school and given subsidies to construct an HIV Center to improve the health sector. The present trip is to consult with authorities for further cooperation.

“Especially, there are cooperation in 3 sectors — education, development of children and women and strengthening the democratic movement,” said U Thura Tun of the association.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Independence Day message from the president

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In line with the development of democracy, we believe that there will become a new democratic country where all citizens can enjoy the essence democracy: freedom, equality and justice.

As peace grows in the country, we can promote socio-economic development simultaneously and help all the nationalities feel secure, providing their basic needs with full cooperation between the government and the people of

all national races.

Thus, I would like to urge all the national people to work in unity for the realization of the following four objectives of the 69th anniversary celebration of the Independence Day with commitment to build a Federal Democratic State, the common destination of our national brethren, successfully:

— to build a genuine Union in future in accordance with the mutual agreement of the 21st century Panglong Peace Conference;

— to safeguard non-disintegration of the union, non-disintegration of national unity, perpetuation of sovereignty through efforts of all national people;

— to strive for the emergence of appropriate state constitution in accordance with norms of democracy to build a federal democratic state;

— to strive for the betterment of economic development among regions and states equally in accordance with the objectives of the State's economic policy.

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Concerning the claims that women were raped, the Commission interviewed local villagers and women using various methods, finding insufficient evidence to take legal action up to this date. As to the arsons, investigations are under way to get sufficient evidence. Illegal arrests and torture are also being investigated.

Condition of Security and Rule of Law

12. There are now cases of abduction, threats and killing of those suspected to be informants and those who cooperated with the governmental departments and organizations. As terrorists are easily entering villages in the Maungtaw area, the conditions are unsafe. Weapons looted from police outposts are still in terrorist's hands. Hand-made mines were seized from their hidden places. These can be assumed to be threatening the security and rule of law of the area. It is found that it will

take time to perform the tasks of making the area safe, peaceful and stable, and for people living in the area to reside in peace and safety.

13. Upgrading socio-economic development, increasing their income and creating economic opportunities in the area will take time. For the time being, the economic status of most of the people in the area is low. The whole state can be said to be poor.

No cases of malnutrition were found in the area, due to the area's favourable fishing and farming conditions.

14. The Commission managed to make arrangements in consultation with the Rakhine State Cabinet for sellers and buyers to perform their daily routines in a normal way by opening bazaars, for students to learn as usual by opening schools, for humanitarian aid groups to help local villagers by allowing them to do so and for members of the media to freely go and cover the news as they wish. Now that the

Maungtaw region border gate has been reopened, 26 village bazaars and the two Township Development Committee-run markets are operating again as normal. Likewise, 171 schools out of 183 have been reopened.

15. Ten detainees who were found to be innocent of committing crimes in the attacks have already been released under section 169 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Under consultation with authorities from various departments and the Rakhine State Cabinet, legal action was taken against 485 suspects in 49 cases. Of them, 28 cases have been put on trial with 3 coming to a final conviction.

Conclusion

16. The Commission is carrying out its duties, being ever mindful that, as per the nature of these conflicts, illegal activities and fabricated rumors and news can appear occasionally.

(Unofficial Translation)