



MYANMAR

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Statement by
U Aung Than Soe, Alternate Representative of
the Union of Myanmar to the Sixth Committee of
the 60th United Nations General Assembly
on Agenda Item No.108: Measures to Eliminate
International Terrorism

(New York, 10 October 2005)

Mr. Chairman,

It is indeed a great honour for me to speak, on behalf of the Myanmar Delegation, on one of the most important issues that we in the civilized world are facing today.

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you and your colleagues on the podium on their well-deserved election as the Chair and members of the bureau respectively. We are confident that, under your able guidance and leadership, the deliberations of this Committee would bring a very fruitful outcome.

Mr. Chairman,

My Delegation fully aligns itself with the statement made, on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN), by the Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the United Nations on the same agenda item. In his statement, Ambassador Le Luong Minh made a reference to the recent terrorist attacks in Bali, Indonesia that took some 20 lives and injured more than a hundred people. He said: "This terrible act of targeting innocent people in public area is clearly an act of terrorism."

Ambassador Minh's above remarks promptly reminded us of the terrorist bombing perpetrated in our capital city of Yangon on 7 May this year: On that fateful day, a series of bombs exploded at the Yangon Trade Centre and two shopping malls, killing a number of innocent people and wounding hundred others. As a victim of terrorism herself, Myanmar condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Mr. Chairman,

Please allow me, at this juncture, to apprise this august assembly of the measures taken by the Government of the Union of Myanmar to prevent, suppress and eliminate terrorism at the national, regional and international levels:

- Myanmar has a strong political will to combat terrorism. With the political will, Myanmar has so far acceded to 10 universal counter-terrorism instruments. Myanmar is a signatory to one counter-terrorism instrument.
- Our legal experts are now drafting a comprehensive Anti-Terrorist Law and a Civil Aviation Security Law.
- Myanmar acceded to the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime on 30 March 2004, together with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.

- On 13 September 2005, Myanmar promulgated Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law, embodying relevant provisions of the international conventions and protocols. Other remaining laws in this area are also being drafted. These laws, when promulgated, will add to the existing 9 special laws that are already in force.
- As a counter-measure against economic and financial crimes, the Control of Money Laundering Law was promulgated on 17 June 2002, and is being practiced by our law enforcement agencies. This law was drafted in accordance with international norms and the forty recommendations from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). In practical terms, the mechanism established under the law, i.e., the Central Control Body, has commenced its operations.
- One additional law that is closely linked to the Control of Money Laundering Law is the Mutual Assistance on Criminal Matters Law. The latter law was promulgated on 28 April 2004. In this connection, the cooperation extended by the UNODC and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is very much appreciated.

Mr. Chairman,

Myanmar, along with her fellow members of ASEAN, shares the view that the measures to be taken against terrorism should be in conformity with international law, particularly the principles of national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. We are committed to enhance cooperative efforts to combat terrorism at the national, regional and international levels. As a member of ASEAN, we are engaged in a number of regional initiatives to eliminate international terrorism. Like our neighbouring countries, Myanmar is equally serious in her commitment to combat the scourge of international terrorism, working hand in hand with the rest of the international community.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.