



Statement of Ireland

44th session of the Human Rights Council

Item 2: Interactive Dialogue on the oral update of the High Commissioner on the human rights situation of Rohingya people

30 June 2020

Madam President, *[Mr/Madam Vice-President,]*

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union. We thank the High Commissioner for her latest update.

Ireland is gravely concerned by the ongoing reports of increased fighting and civilian casualties in Rakhine and Chin States, despite the observance of a national ceasefire elsewhere in Myanmar. Ireland urges all parties to end this violence and to provide unfettered humanitarian access to all conflict-affected areas and vulnerable communities.

As the international community collectively battles COVID-19, we also share the High Commissioner's concern at ongoing media and internet restrictions, coupled with reports of the arbitrary arrest and detention of journalists and human rights defenders. Limiting access to information in the midst of this pandemic will severely exacerbate the existing humanitarian challenges faced by the Rohingya and other vulnerable communities.

Ireland continues to urge Myanmar to prioritise the creation of conditions conducive to the safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable return of Rohingya refugees to their places of origin. It also remains imperative that Myanmar brings to justice those responsible for all human rights violations committed against the Rohingya. This is a critical step on the path to peace and reconciliation.

Madam High Commissioner, amid recent concerns concerning incidence of boats carrying Rohingya refugees being found adrift in the Bay of Bengal, how best can the international community support governments in the region to ensure the safety and security of these displaced Rohingya?

Thank you.

[Word Count: 235 words]