



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE

GENEVA

5TH SPECIAL SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Situation of the Human Rights Situation in Myanmar

Intervention by the Permanent Representative of Greece

- Greece fully associates herself with the statement already made by Portugal on behalf of the European Union.

- The Greek delegation expresses her deep concern for the deterioration of the human rights situation in Myanmar. The continuing recourse to violence by the Burmese authorities against peaceful demonstrators seriously affects the (*observance of the*) people's right to freedom of expression as well as freedom of opinion, association and peaceful assembly.

- Our country has repeatedly criticized the violation of human rights in Myanmar. We have been among those who supported the relevant resolution of the Security Council two years ago and we are among the countries that have asked for this special session of the Council

- Violence cannot be justified under any circumstances. A process for national reconciliation must start immediately and the Burmese government should embark upon an open and peaceful dialogue with pro democracy leaders and all parties concerned.

- It is our conviction that the Human Rights Council has a responsibility to address the situation as well as an obligation to act on cases whenever persistent and systematic human rights violations occur. Furthermore let us bear in mind that in accordance with the Vienna Declaration, «the promotion and protection of all human rights is a legitimate concern of the international community».

- It is of utmost importance that the Government of Burma refrains from further use of violence against peaceful demonstrators, release political prisoners and take all necessary measures to restore the rule of democracy and to re-establish respect for human and political rights in the country.

- We appreciate the presence today of the High Commissioner and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in Myanmar. We wish to thank Professor Pinheiro and Mrs Arbour for sharing with us their views. We also express our full support for the mission of the UN Special envoy, Mr. Gambari, in Burma. His meetings with General Than Shue and the detained Opposition leader Mrs Aung San Suu Kyi are a positive step forward.

- Greece strongly believes that a meaningful political dialogue between the Burmese military authorities and the opposition leaders is the only path to a comprehensive and peaceful solution of the crisis in Myanmar.

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