

Statement of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission on the Inspection of prisons, jails and lock-up in Myanmar during January to June 2021

Statement No. (8/2021)

1. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) has inspected prisons, jails, labour camps, police detention centres, court lock-ups and hospital guard-wards, on scheduled dates, in accordance with section 43 of the Commission Law in order to examine whether prisoners and detainees are treated in conformity with humanitarian norms, international human rights instruments and domestic legislation.
2. In inspecting, as stipulated in section 44 of the Commission law, spaces in the prisons, jails and lock-up and facilities for those detained were examined and independent interviews with the prisoners and detainees were conducted. The findings of the inspections together with recommendations were referred to the relevant Union- level organizations.
3. The Commission inspected 6 prisons, 5 labour camps and 9 police detention centres as follows:
 - (a) Sittwe Prison and police detention centre from 11 to 13 May 2021;
 - (b) Thandwe Prison and police detention centres from 18 to 20 May 2021;
 - (c) Kyauk Phyu Prison and police detention centres from 23 to 25 May 2021;
 - (d) Mingone labour camp on 3 June 2021;
 - (e) Taungoo Prison, 4 mile labour camp and police detention centres from 7 to 10 June 2021;
 - (f) Shwe Mya Yar and Hlay Hlaw Inn labour camps on 11 June 2021;
 - (g) Tharyarwaddy Prison on 16 June 2021;
 - (h) Tawgyitan labour camp on 21 June 2021;
 - (i) Dike U Prison on 24 June 2021;
4. In these inspection tours, 59 prisoners and detainees were allowed to separately meet the inspection team to freely reveal their difficulties, violations of their rights and judicial matters without the presence of prison officials. After reviewing their revelations, the relevant organizations at the Union-level have been informed accordingly.

5. The team carried out the inspections in accordance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, contained in the Procedure of the MNHRC law and based on findings, the following recommendations have already been put forward to the relevant Union-level organizations:

(a)	related to health	-	21
(b)	related to administration	-	49
(c)	related to cleaning	-	17
(d)	related to prison building	-	15
(e)	related to communication with the outside world	-	7
(f)	related to family visit	-	2
(g)	related to food	-	3
Total		-	114

6. While inspecting prisons, jails and lock-ups, the inspection team also monitored the implementation of the previous recommendations and progress achieved. The implementation of the new recommendations resulting from the current inspections will be re-examined as well on next inspection visits.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Dated 2 July 2021