

Human Rights Council, 5 special session

Geneva 2 October 2007

Statement by

**H.E. Mr. Kristinn F. Árnason, Ambassador,
Permanent representative of Iceland to
International Organizations in Geneva**

Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar

Mr. President

Iceland is one of the signatory countries that requested the Human Rights Council to hold a Special Session of the Human Rights Council to discuss the human rights situation in Myanmar.

When addressing the General Assembly last Friday, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland expressed her deep concern over events in Myanmar, where the democratically elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been held in detention for years and where peaceful expression of political dissent is brutally repressed.

Mr. President

The Government of Iceland condemns the continued violent repression of peaceful demonstrations in Myanmar, including through beatings, killings and arbitrary detention.

The Government of Iceland urges the government of Myanmar to ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and to lift all restraints on peaceful political activity by all persons.

The Government of Iceland urges the Government of Myanmar to release immediately those who have been detained, including Aung San Suu Kyi, to commence investigations into the killings and violations that have occurred, to bring to justice perpetrators of human rights violations.

In addition, Iceland urges the Government of Myanmar to take steps to alleviate the economic hardship of the great majority of the population, and introduce necessary and long overdue reforms.

Mr. President

The Government of Iceland calls upon the Myanmar government to extend its full support to the United Nations to help all parties involved find a peaceful resolution.

Lastly, I would like to confirm the firm support of the Government of Iceland to the draft resolution tabled by the European Union. Iceland urges the Human Rights Council and other security forums to remain seized of this serious matter.

I thank you Mr. President