

I am writing to express my grave concern on two journalists who are facing up to 14 years in prison in connection with their peaceful journalistic activities. They were charged with breaching Myanmar's Official Secrets Act on 10 January 2018.

Both men must be immediately and unconditionally released and the charges against them dropped as they have been detained solely for the exercise of their human right to freedom of expression, and drop the charges against them.

I should also ask the authorities to repeal or amend all laws – including the 1923 Official Secrets Act – which criminalize or impose arbitrary or sweeping restrictions on the human right to freedom of expression, and bring Myanmar legislation into line with international human rights law and standards back to normal.

Sincerely,