

I am writing this to express my grave concern on Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo who were sentenced to seven years in jail on 3 September 2018 after being found guilty of breaching Myanmar's Official Secrets Act. The politically-motivated verdict is in connection with their peaceful journalistic activities in Rakhine State. Both men are prisoners of conscience and must be immediately and unconditionally released.

I should call on you to immediately and unconditionally release Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, as they have been imprisoned solely for the peaceful exercise of their human right to freedom of expression, and revoke the convictions against them.

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

And please ensure to protect the two from torture and other ill-treatment and ensure humane conditions of detention pending their release, including medical care.

Your attention would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely,