



No.53001/371

Sir,

We would like to draw your attention to the news reported by Dunya Bulteni (Turkish edition of World News Bulletin) on Monday 14 July 2014, titled "Junta which seized power in Thailand is preparing to send 130,000 Arakan Muslims back to Myanmar to their deaths".

We found that the report was a misinterpretation of the facts at hand. We would like to clarify to you that the group of 130,000 persons mentioned in your report are not Arakan Muslims. They are displaced persons of different ethnic groups who have fled fighting in Myanmar during the past several decades and have been staying in temporary shelters in Thailand. The gist of the meeting between Myanmar's Commander in Chief of Defense Services and the Thai National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) early July 2014 on this subject was that both sides will cooperate in helping these displaced persons by facilitating the safe return to their homeland and this will be done in accordance with human rights principles.

On a separate matter, the issue of the Rohingyas was also discussed at the meeting whereby both sides agreed to cooperate on the nationality verification of the Rohingyas. This initiative is believed to be one of a longstanding solution to the problem and to the benefit of the Rohingyas.

In this regard, it would be highly appreciative if your agency could publish the above clarification in order to allow the readers to have the correct information.

(Mr. Nattachai Powcharoen)

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