Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo

Union Attorney General Office No. 25

Nay Pyi Taw

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Dear Attorney General:

I write to draw your attention to the cases of Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, two journalists who were charged with breaching Myanmar’s Officials Secrets Act. The two journalists had been investigating a military crackdown in Rakhine State against the Rohingya minority, and were arrested for possessing documents that had been given to them by the police.

The arrests of Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo appear to be aimed at preventing them, as well as other journalists, from independently reporting on the situation in Rakhine State. The case is an attack on freedom of expression in Myanmar which will undermine the ability of all journalists to conduct their work without fear of reprisal.

I respectfully request that you immediately and unconditionally release Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, as they have been detained solely for the peaceful exercise of their human right to freedom of expression. Furthermore, I ask you to repeal or amend all laws – including the 1923 Official Secrets Act – which criminalize or impose restrictions on the human right to freedom of expression, and bring Myanmar legislation into line with international human rights law and standards.

Yours sincerely,