Ambassador H.E Aung Lynn

Embassy of the Union of Myanmar

2300 S St. NW

Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ambassador:

I am writing to you with great concern for the cases of Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, two Reuters journalists charged with breaching the Official Secrets Act. The two journalists had been investigating a military crackdown in Rakhine State against the Rohingya minority. While in detention, the reporters have been mistreated by being subjected to sleep deprivation, according to their lawyers.

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 which will undermine the ability of all journalists in Myanmar to conduct their work without fear of reprisal.

I respectfully request that the Myanmar authorities 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 that all laws – including the 1923 Official Secrets Act – which criminalize or impose restrictions on the human right to freedom of expression be repealed or amended to bring Myanmar legislation in line with international human rights law and standards.

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Yours sincerely,