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Statement Pertaining to the conflicts occurring in Rakhine and Chin States

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At the moment, Myanmar people are extremely worried about the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) which has reached the Pandemic stage and gradually increasing day by day causing fatalities.

As much as concern for the pandemic is mounting anxieties and fear among the people, they are also saddened by the conflict in Rakhine and Chin States between Myanmar Armed Forces and Arakan Army which has been escalating in an alarming scale. Due to these fightings, innocent villagers from the affected areas are facing arbitrary arrests, random shelling on their homes causing casualties including deaths amongst the children, women and elderly. Furthermore, a considerable number of ethnic races had been rendered homeless as the consequence of the hostilities.

Therefore, in order to hasten the containment of the spreading COVID-19 disease and to provide basic necessities and food stuff to the victims living in the hard-hit areas, we earnestly demand that the current fightings to be ceased as earliest as possible.

(Myint Swe)

President Nyein Chan Metta Organization (*Religions for Peace*-Myanmar)