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ORAL STATEMENT

ITEM 2: Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner for Human Rights
**ENDING IMPUNITY AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MINORITIES IN
MYANMAR**

UN Human Rights Council
Forty-third session
24 February – 20 March 2020

Madam President,

Amnesty International thanks the High Commissioner for Human Rights for her report on the situation of the Rohingya and other minorities in Myanmar.

As the report clearly shows how ethnic, religious, and other minority communities across Myanmar share a common history of institutionalized discrimination, oppression, and marginalization by the state. For decades, their rights have been routinely and systematically violated.

Many of these violations continue today – whether in the form of denial of rights such as the deprivation of citizenship and freedom of movement for the Rohingya community or the military’s ongoing violations against ethnic Rakhine, Shan, Ta’ang, Kachin, Chin and other communities living in conflict-affected areas.

The High Commissioner’s report underscores once more the need to end military impunity and the importance of the full realization of the rights of ethnic, religious and other minority communities. Such measures are essential to ensure that all people in Myanmar can live their lives in dignity and security, free from discrimination. Unfortunately, Myanmar’s authorities, including the current civilian-led administration, have often been among those fostering rather than challenging narratives of hate, intolerance, hostility, and violence.

Following the recent efforts towards international justice for military atrocities against the Rohingya – most notably the case before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) – we have been deeply concerned to see the authorities stoke divisions, harnessing and perpetuating narratives of “us versus them”. Such narratives are not only harmful, they are dangerous.

Madam High Commissioner,

We are keen to know what immediate actions you think the Myanmar government could and should take to prevent further escalation of tensions and ensure the protection of all communities in the country?

What actions does your office plan to take to follow-up on the findings and recommendations of the report?

Thank you, Madam President.