

PRESS STATEMENT

Yangon, Myanmar, 30 January, 2017. The UN Resident Coordinator in Myanmar condemns in the strongest terms the killing of U Ko Ni who was shot dead at the Yangon airport on 29 January, 2017 and expresses her sincerest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of U Ko Ni. She also condemns the killing of U Nay Win who made a heroic attempt to apprehend the assailant, extends her heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and co-workers, and salutes his bravery and sacrifice.

The UN noted the quick reaction by the National Police and the public resulting in the successful capture of the main suspect of these crimes. It will be of the utmost importance for the Government of Myanmar to thoroughly investigate these killings, identifying the motivations behind them and hold those responsible to account. The Myanmar public must see the Government's firm commitment to the rule of law, and be assured that such lamentable acts will not be tolerated in a democratic society.

U Ko Ni was a prominent constitutional lawyer and a legal advisor to the National League of Democracy. He was a tireless and lifelong advocate for social justice and human rights, determined to achieve a democratic, diverse and peaceful society in the country he loved, Myanmar.

The UN Resident Coordinator was heartened to see that so many people from all walks of life attended U Ko Ni's funeral today and hopes that U Ko Ni's loss will prompt deep national reflection, and that leaders and the people from all communities will unite in standing up against hatred and violence and affirm their unshakable commitment to human rights, tolerance and peace. U Ko Ni can be best honored by practicing the values he fought so hard for, and embracing his vision of a more inclusive and harmonious nation.