



The Embassy joins those here and around the world who were deeply disturbed and saddened by the pictures and reports of violence in Letpadan on March 10, as well as in Yangon on March 5. Such incidents clearly set back the cause of reconciliation, and threaten to lower mutual trust in the reform process of this country.

But how the government and people decide to proceed from here will determine whether these recent events hold the country back or offer an opportunity to propel it forward. A transparent and credible investigation - involving both government and civil society working together - and honest accounting of what happened on March 5 and 10, for instance, would help build trust and help prevent a repeat of such harmful incidents going forward.

The United States remains deeply committed to the success of this country. We hope the government in partnership with its people will work together to help ensure history records the events of the past week not as a permanent setback but as a turning point, an opportunity seized rather than lost by all sides, on the difficult road to democracy, peace, development, and reconciliation.