



*Ambassador
of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
to the United States*

Date, *16* November 2020

Mr. Fred Hiatt
Editorial Page Editor
Washington Post

Dear Mr. Hiatt,

I am writing this letter in response to the Washington Post's Editorial Board on October 30 entitled "Myanmar's 2015 vote sparked hope for democracy. This election shows only backsliding." I am very disappointed that a distinguished newspaper has posted misleading news on the elections in Myanmar.

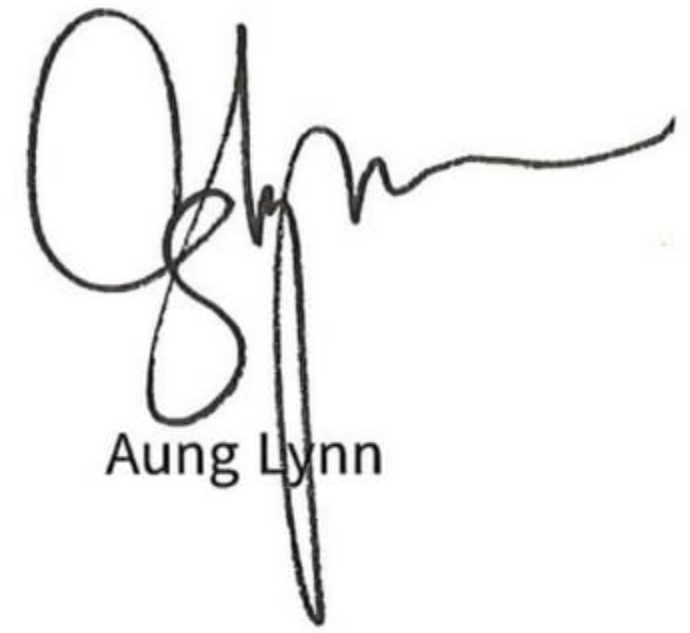
I have no doubt that you know about my country that is a very nascent democracy where the people of Myanmar were under absolute military rule for many years. While elections are routine events for most countries, it is a crucial event for the people of Myanmar in building a democratic nation.

General Elections in Myanmar took place on 8 November 2020. Many foreign governments and leaders have commended the Myanmar government for the large turnout in the elections and peaceful voting, especially in the current challenging circumstances amid the COVID-19 pandemic. They acknowledged the fact that the results of the elections reflected the confidence and trust the people of Myanmar have placed in the civilian Government.

People's Alliance for Credible Elections (PACE), an independent, non-partisan and non-government election observer group, deployed 996 observers to 498 polling stations in all 14 states and regions on the Election Day. Its preliminary finding of the election stated that overall Election Day process was peaceful and no major incidents were recorded at almost all polling stations. I sincerely hope that the Washington Post would recognize the positive developments in the Election process in Myanmar.

Myanmar attaches great importance to her relationship with the United States because of its unwavering support to democracy in the past and present. We will continue to work with the United States on the basis of mutual understanding and benefit, and a shared commitments to promote peace and justice, democracy and freedom, and inclusive development in Myanmar.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Aung Lynn', with a large initial 'A' and a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Aung Lynn