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H.E. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi
State Counsellor, Minister of Foreign Affairs and
Minister of the Office of the President
Office No. 9Nay Pyi Taw
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

11 November 2018

Dear Daw Aung San Suu Kyi,

Nine years ago, Amnesty International recognized you with our highest honour, the Ambassador of Conscience award. When we presented you the award, you clearly stood as “a symbol of hope, courage and the undying defence of human rights, not only to the people of Myanmar but to people around the world.”

As an Amnesty International Ambassador of Conscience, our expectation was that you would continue to use your moral authority to speak out against injustice wherever you saw it, not least within Myanmar itself.

Instead, we are deeply alarmed and disappointed by your clear and consistent betrayal of the very values you promoted for decades. You have chosen to overlook and excuse the brutal oppression and crimes against humanity committed by the military against the Rohingya and against minorities in Kachin and northern Shan States, and your office has actively shielded the military from international scrutiny and accountability. We have also been appalled to witness your administration spread hate narratives against minorities, fostering rather than challenging discrimination and hostility. As an organization which campaigned tirelessly for your release – and the release of all prisoners of conscience in Myanmar – we are dismayed that your government has not only failed to repeal or amend repressive laws but has actively used them to curb freedom of expression, and arrest and imprison human rights defenders, journalists and other peaceful activists.

Today, we are profoundly dismayed that you no longer represent a symbol of hope, courage, and the undying defence of human rights. Amnesty International cannot justify your continued status as a recipient of the Ambassador of Conscience award and so with great sadness we are hereby withdrawing it from you. We will publicly announce the withdrawal two days from now, on 13 November.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to ensuring all people in Myanmar can exercise their rights freely, in dignity, and with equality.

Yours sincerely,



Kumi Naidoo
Secretary General