

Boston Latin School  
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*Preventing Genocide and Mass Atrocities in Myanmar*

# The Organization of Islamic Cooperation

Briefing Paper

## **A. Introduction**

We are the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, also frequently referred to as the OIC. As the official voice of the Islamic world, we are glad to be included in these very important discussions and look forward to many productive conversations. While we are glad that these conversations are finally happening, we are deeply disgusted by the actions of multiple groups who are included in this conference and seek to avoid normalizing or accepting their actions. These groups *must* repent for their actions on an international stage.

There are many things that are owed to the Rohingya. The Rohingya must be repatriated as full citizens of the Myanmar government, with full and equal rights and protections. Rohingya health and wellness must be ensured and improved, including reforms to healthcare, housing, and immigration. Finally, Myanmar must take full responsibility for its actions in the genocide of the Rohingya. We are disgusted by current conditions and demand recognition of international law and standards.

In order to achieve our goals of improved rights for the Rohingya, we are proposing the creation and adoption of the Southeast Asian Religious Protections Agreement, or SEARPA. This agreement will guarantee protections of religious freedoms for all. It is evident that religious discrimination has caused great ethnic conflict and genocide. Our proposal will include sanctions against any who violate the agreement. Whether or not this passes, we are hoping that, due to the discussions, the Rohingya can be rescued from genocide, relieved from their dangerous situation with safe, livable refugee camps, and returned to a safe environment in Myanmar.

## **B. Identity**

The OIC represents the Muslim world, representing 57 majority Muslim member states on 4 continents. Our collective population reaches 1.8 billion people worldwide, predominantly in northern Africa and the Middle East, with Russia and others as observer states. We are the second largest intergovernmental organization after the United Nations, with significant sway in international diplomacy. We have a presence in the European Union and the United Nations, contributing to the growth and continuity of international peace and security. Our own goals are explained in the OIC-2025, among which are the elimination of poverty, protection of the Muslim faith, education, and institutional reform geared towards the progression of the Islamic state.

For our 51 years of existence, we have had the honor to represent the Ummah, the entire Muslim community, and to promote unity by taking up all cases that we have found necessary to follow our policies. To do so, the OIC has cooperative and consultative relations with the United Nations, along with other intergovernmental organizations. Along with our science and technology, information and culture, and economy and trade committees, we are able to help settle all matters of conflict or dispute for our member countries and states. In addition to these committees are the Islamic Summit, the Council of Foreign Ministers, the General Secretariat, and the Al-Quds Committee, which constitutes the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

### **C. Key Points**

The OIC believes that the following are the most important objectives for the conference.

1. To create an enforceable charter to regulate and end religious discrimination.
2. To ease the safe repatriation of the Rohingya people in Myanmar.
3. To ensure the protection of Rohingya rights and security within Myanmar.
4. To urge and incite action from the international community in the defense of the Muslim Rohingya and other Muslim refugees.
5. To force the Myanmar government to accept social, economic, and political accountability for genocidal and discriminatory actions.

### **D. History with the Crisis**

We have been investigating and defending the Rohingya people from the start of this crisis. In 1982, a citizenship law was passed, barring the Muslim group from citizenship rights. For the next decade we remained watchful over the situation of our Muslim cohorts. 20 years later, decades of ethnic tensions came to a head when a group of Rohingya men were accused of the assault of a Myanmar woman. The country responded with a campaign of ethnic cleansing.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation jumped to the aid of our brothers, attempting to establish an official office in Myanmar. As expected, we were blocked, and took our defensive evidence of ethnic cleansing to the international stage. We have attempted to provide direct aid, repeatedly denied and blocked by a hateful Myanmar government. In 2012, we released a public statement condemning Myanmar's ethnic cleansing and targeted violence. We called for a unification of international bodies in creating pressure against a corrupt state. We have worked, moving forward, with the United Nations to protect Rohingya refugees, and recently had the opportunity to sue Myanmar in the International Criminal Court, and the International Court of Justice in Gambia. Myanmar has been directly condemned by the international community, commanded to uphold its duties according to the Genocide Convention and the establishment of International Law.

Despite Myanmar's efforts at denying the crisis, the OIC and international media agencies have worked to expose their crimes against humanity. Aung San Suu Kyi has refused to acknowledge these crimes with any validity or severity, backed by the protection of China and India. Despite this protection, in a court order at the Hague, Myanmar was convicted of genocidal actions and ordered to take all measures within its power to prevent total genocide. This decision was a result of a decades long fight from the OIC in the defense of a defenseless people.

We will continue to put pressure on the volatile Myanmar state, and take all measures possible to protect and defend our Muslim brotherhood. We will continue to work with the international community, developing rapid and effective solutions to repatriate and defend the Rohingya refugees, as well as those unable to leave Myanmar. This is an opportunity for the

international community to come together in the fight against genocide, marginalization, a hatred that threatens us all.

## **E. Current Issues**

### **I. Committee on Representation and Governance**

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation has decided to refrain from participating in this committee on Representation and Governance. We actively voice our support for any measure which will increase the influence of the voice of the people, or which will curb religious discrimination. We hope that this committee is able to be strong and protect those who matter, the people.

### **II. Committee on Security**

The governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar do not take security seriously. Myanmar has refused to let independent investigators observe and report on their findings on the Rakhine State. They have also restricted local journalists from spreading news of the crisis. Rohingya people that travel across the borders receive severe punishments, even as extreme as death, due both to the policies of Myanmar and its neighbors. People that remain in their communities suffer from military assault and government destruction. Women and girls are also faced with sexual assault and kidnappings. Myanmar is currently misusing its force, and as it is fully responsible for the wellbeing of all those within its borders, must end the use of violence in the Rakhine state immediately.

There are many groups that are involved in this genocide. Though international access to the Rakhine has been restricted, supranational organizations, including ourselves, have exerted what power we have in order to hold the Myanmar government responsible for its actions. The United Nations has also been monitoring the situation as closely as possible.

As the voice of the Muslim world, it is our goal to protect the entire Rohingya population. For this reason, we have brought lawsuits against Myanmar to ICJ, and intend to continue to hold all states responsible for their respective treatments of Muslims. We believe that all leaders who have either orchestrated or been complicit in this genocide should be held accountable at international courts. Furthermore, we are not opposed to sending United Nations peacekeeping forces into the region in order to begin to introduce stability and accountability to the Rakhine region.

We are invested in supporting the future stability of all nations which can certifiably protect the rights of Muslims. While we recognize that a failed state will be harmful to all those living within or around the region, we will not be able to support the stability of a regime which actively seeks to discriminate against or directly injure any member of the Muslim population.

Thus, we will be invested in the future stability and security development of Myanmar more intensely as soon as we believe that they can protect all Muslims within its borders. Until this point, we see no use in supporting the stability of a nation which is committing crimes against humanity through genocide.

We believe that it is imperative that the international community embrace its responsibility to protect and save the Rohingya population. Bangladesh has been unfairly obligated to take more refugees that it is capable of taking in. We strongly urge all members of the OIC to extend their aid to the refugees, both continuing and expanding any humanitarian support, and financially sustaining all countries hosting refugees. In order to guarantee future stability, we have called on all members of the OIC as well as the general international community, to ensure the eventual return for refugees to their own homes, and the complete restoration of citizenship. We wish to guarantee a permanent home for the Rohingya.

We support intervention committed by the United Nations. We have seen enough evidence of the human rights violations and killings occurring within the state in order to confidently call this a genocide. We cannot afford to watch another genocide committed. The international community cannot have a repeat of Cambodia nor of Rwanda. We support the increase of inspections of the country by supranational organizations, such as the UN and ourselves, in order to fully understand the facets of the crisis and how to best address it. Beyond that, we are encouraging the Myanmar government to engage in discussions with ourselves in order to resolve the crisis.

The OIC is extremely disappointed in such countries as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Russia, China and India. Evidence has shown that these states have been not only complicit in the genocide but actively acting to fund it. Reports note that Myanmar and its military have bought weapons from these nations, and have benefitted from their relations. Thus, the OIC supports an international arms and weaponry embargo against the Tatmadaw.

Myanmar does not have a strong record of protecting human rights. As of 2011, before the start of the Rohingya crisis, a United Nations fact-finding mission found military abuses committed in the Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan states. It is apparent that even before the beginning of the genocide, Myanmar security forces were using violence towards perceived internal threats. While we recognize that rebel groups complicate the issue, security forces should not act in retaliation towards its own people.

Security before the start of the crisis can be characterized through Myanmar's desire to work towards its economic development in relation to the rest of the international community. Since Myanmar had developed close ties to many of its neighbors, as well as to the United States, it is clear the genocide and the fallout from which are being committed with little to no regard for any past or present economic allies. Myanmar has shown that its security is based upon that of other countries and that all force has been principally directed towards internal entities.

Myanmar first established diplomatic ties with Bangladesh in 1972, at which point the government of Bangladesh was formally recognized by that of Myanmar. Myanmar and

Bangladesh, as it has been previously noted before the crisis, could form trilateral trade agreements with China, effectively bolstering the economies of each respective country. In 2009, Myanmar was noted constructing fences along the border in order to prevent the entry of terrorism, as they claim. This method also had the intended consequence of containing those already within the country's borders. Myanmar and Bangladesh have also prioritized the repatriation of Rohingya refugees.

However, since the beginning of the conflict, it is clear that international relations have faced increased strain, due to the increased levels of violence and increased flow of refugees. Since more refugees have entered Bangladesh since the start of the conflict, Bangladesh's government has faced increased pressure, barely able to contain and manage such a flow of members. While the repatriation has continued, it is evident that this is a death sentence. Bangladesh needs the assistance of the international community in order to manage its crisis.

Myanmar has also strained relations with its neighbors through a history of violence between military and ethnic conflict. These increased in the Kachin, Shan, and Karen states, all of which can be found along a border which Myanmar shares with another country. This increase in violation is causing fears for Myanmar's neighbors concerning their borders. We think that all of these countries, as well as all others worldwide, need to act and make the pressure which we have gathered against the government as clear as possible.

Before the genocide, security was not a priority to the government. Law and order have not been highly present, with an almost complete absence of the rule of law, as Muslims have frequently faced persecution in Myanmar, despite their innocence. While the present situation is complicated by the presence of violent, non-state actors, it is clear that the police force and army have been misusing their authority. Furthermore, there is evidence that many residents of the Rakhine state live their lives in fear, thus proving the complete absence of law, order, or objective enforcement. State authorities appear to care less about the preservation of law and order than the direct violent oppression of its own residents.

Within the Rakhine state, there is little importance for the condition of those living there. Conditions are extreme for the estimated 500,000 to 600,00 Rohingya who continue to live in the Rakhine. Civilians in this region are clearly not secure. However, this extends beyond only the Rakhine state. The Myanmar government has not protected civilian rights in multiple other states, such as the Shan state. Reports in summer 2019 show that civilians in the Shan state have faced great numbers of displacements, with 7,500 displaced from the region and 3,500 placed in temporary shelter. Kayah State has expressed a complete willingness to implement the use of force against those protesting the actions of the government, whether local or national. There does not appear to be a region in Myanmar in which one can be sure that he/she will be safe, whether due to the inactivity of the police in restricting violence committed against civilians or due to the overactivity of the police in discriminating against minorities.

Before the crisis, the military maintained its connections to the people in the past primarily through its nuclear program. Through an attempt to increase its nuclear capabilities and energy,

Myanmar has made it clear that they believe that they should have an influence over the security of all of their citizens.

Nevertheless, the current relationship which the military has with its own citizens appears to be completely subjective. Groups and enterprises have collaborated with the government in order to fund the military and perpetuate the genocide. These civilian groups thus maintain a positive relationship with the military while worsening its relationship with others. We deeply dissent against this enforced partiality on behalf of the government, especially as it seeks to destroy peace and humanity.

The Myanmar government has continuously made it evident that Human Rights are not a concern to their government and that there is not a concern present with relations to its frequent and common violations. The government has destroyed 34 Rohingya villages, and there is considerable evidence that Myanmar security forces have committed many grave waves of abuse of human rights against the Rohingya through 2018. The government has attempted to restrict the Rohingya people's freedom of movement, has destroyed at least 34 Rohingya villages, and killed hundreds of children. Thus, these deplorable conditions are a clear display of the disregard which the Myanmar government holds for international standards of conduct.

Nevertheless, it is imperative that a sense of peace, non-violence, and human rights be reinstated to the country of Myanmar and the Southeastern region of Asia. We all also stress the urgency in finding a permanent and secure home for the Rohingya people.

### **III. Committee on Development**

Myanmar is one of the least developed global regions, and most of the population participates in agricultural production. Their economic output is primarily large enterprises including, banking system, insurance, foreign trade, domestic wholesale trade, and retail trade. Myanmar is decentralized and is often seen as having an "informal" economy. One of their biggest challenges is smuggling, as they are one of the top producers of opium. With the change of government in 2011 came a series of political reforms in support of basic civil rights, electoral democracy, and economic growth. However, the military has dominated, and although some of the authority handed over to civilians (NLD), Myanmar is still left vulnerable. There is a need to improve social inclusion and access to inputs by enabling business to support a responsible private sector.

There is a low standard of living in Bangladesh, due to their dependence on agriculture. Rice is their predominant agricultural product, as well as jute, tea, IT, and garment production. Total annual imports typically exceed exports. Imports come principally from China and South Asia, while Bangladesh exports goods primarily to Europe, the United States, and Canada. Bangladesh is said to be one of the world's least developed countries according to the United Nations. By 2040, however, a major economic boost is expected to follow the recent growth.

Bangladesh faces many environmental challenges including groundwater contamination, cyclones and flooding, and lack of government support to altering the effects of climate change.

Bangladesh was once a decentralized economy but now has an improved average growth rate of 8%. Bangladesh also has a declining population which has helped with their economy.

Bangladesh has many natural resources such as natural gas, oil, coal, valuable stones, limestone, brick, and white clay, gas, petroleum, and timber. Its economic development, urbanization, industrialization, transportation and communication systems all depend on proper utilization and management of natural resources, particularly non-renewable resources.

Their development, however, lacks proper economic growth due to dictatorship, extensive property, and civil war. Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) has unveiled that Myanmar's oil and gas, various minerals, precious stones, and gems are a failing grade for mismanagement according to the 2017 Resource Governance Index (RGI). The main investors by country were Myanmar's neighbors China (including Hong Kong) and Thailand, followed by South Korea, Singapore, and others. Myanmar has become more involved in global markets, profiting greatly. Mining is both a large scale and small scale factor to their natural resource extraction. The current mining law (Mining Law of 1994) protects companies involved in mining, giving very few rights to landholders.

Bangladesh presents generous opportunities for economic development beyond its liberalized Industrial Policy and export-oriented, non-public sector-led boom strategy. The authorities of Bangladesh (GOB) who seek foreign funding are textiles, leather, light manufacturing, energy, facts and communications technology (ICT), and infrastructure sectors. Public sectors include arms and ammunition, forest plantation and mechanized extraction, production of nuclear energy, security printing and mining. Private sectors include agribusiness (food processing), health care, information and communications technology and outsourcing, light engineering, pharmaceuticals, and tourism.

In Myanmar The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank are conducting economic assessments of the country's most pressing needs, and preparing to clear Myanmar's arrears so it can borrow again for development projects. Myanmar is working to improve its public and private sectors. Members of civil society organizations, farmer groups, exertions unions, and scholar groups, in addition to urban residents have protested and marched to demand that the government deal with desires that range from greater academic freedom. The private sector dominates in agriculture, light industry, and transport activities, while the government controls energy, heavy industry, and military industries.

The Bangladesh Army owns two factories that produce small hands and light vehicles. Bangladesh, after many years of independence, still relies upon imports of small- and medium-variety hands for home use. The Bangladesh Ordnance Factories [BOF] was hooked up in Gazipur in 1970 with the help of China. The manufacturing facility was severely broken by using the Pakistan profession forces throughout the battle of independence in 1971.

Many of the excellent enterprises in Myanmar have been taken over by means of military-controlled business conglomerates. Others went into the hands of a small group of cronies. At the same time a number of latest state-owned enterprises have been created such that in 2011 state-owned enterprises had been nonetheless at the center of the Myanmar economy,



especially in the sectors of energy, mining, and banking. The constitution provides that 25 percent of seats in Parliament are given to the military. While Ms. Suu Kyi's party can easily pass everyday legislation, the navy bloc makes it almost impossible to amend the constitution. Importantly, that charter makes positive the navy keeps manipulating the 3 key ministries — Defence, Border and Home Affairs.

Bangladesh's top 10 exports are as follows: knit or crochet clothing, accessories: US\$18.9 billion (44.9% of total exports); Clothing, accessories (not knit or crochet): \$17.7 billion (42%); Miscellaneous textiles, worn clothing: \$1.1 billion (2.5%); Footwear: \$936.4 million (2.2%); Paper yarn, woven fabric: \$641.6 million (1.5%); Fish: \$525.5 million (1.2%); Headgear: \$302.6 million (0.7%); Leather/animal gut articles: \$293.7 million (0.7%); Raw hides, skins not furskins, leather: \$166.5 million (0.4%); Tobacco, manufactured substitutes: \$105.4 million (0.2%). Bangladesh's top imports are as follows: Machinery including computers: US\$6.7 billion (12.7% of total imports); Cotton: \$6.6 billion (12.4%); Mineral fuels including oil: \$4.6 billion (8.7%); Electrical machinery, equipment: \$3.9 billion (7.3%); Iron, steel: \$2.8 billion (5.2%); Vehicles: \$2 billion (3.9%); Man-made staple fibers: \$1.9 billion (3.6%); Plastics, plastic articles: \$1.9 billion (3.6%); Animal/vegetable fats, oils, waxes: \$1.7 billion (3.3%); Cereals: \$1.5 billion (2.8%).

Myanmar's top 10 exports are as follows: mineral fuels including oil: US\$3.5 billion (23% of total exports); Clothing, accessories (not knit or crochet): \$3.1 billion (20.4%); Knit or crochet clothing, accessories: \$1.4 billion (9.2%); Ores, slag, ash: \$1 billion (6.5%); Copper: \$811.5 million (5.3%); Vegetables: \$470.9 million (3.1%); Footwear: \$447.5 million (2.9%); Gems, precious metals: \$441.4 million (2.9%); Fish: \$375 million (2.4%); Cereals: \$374.4 million (2.4%). Myanmar's top 10 imports are as follows: Mineral fuels including oil: US\$3 billion (12.5% of total imports); Electrical machinery, equipment: \$2.6 billion (10.7%); Machinery including computers: \$2.3 billion (9.5%); Vehicles: \$1.5 billion (6.2%); Iron, steel: \$1.2 billion (4.9%); Plastics, plastic articles: \$857.1 million (3.5%); Articles of iron or steel: \$675 million (2.8%); Animal/vegetable fats, oils, waxes: \$625.2 million (2.6%); Man-made filaments: \$583 million (2.4%); Knit or crochet fabric: \$551.4 million (2.3%).

During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, Myanmar allocated 13.19% of its state budget to the state defense sector, 4.58% on health, 5.25% on state economic activity, and 8.80% to education.

For 2019-2020, Bangladesh allocated 6.1% of its state budget to the state defense sector, 4.9% on health, 0.7% on industrial and economic services, 6.4% subsidies & incentives, and 15.2% on education and technology.

Myanmar and Bangladesh would both be considered unequal societies. Myanmar caters to its large Bamar population, providing quality education to the Bamar while neglecting other ethnic minorities. The military has also begun a military campaign of ethnic cleansing that began in August 2017, forcing hundreds of thousands of Rohingya to flee their homes, many to refugee camps in neighboring Bangladesh. Another group, the Shan, have suffered inhuman treatment including forced labor, torture, rape, and confiscation of property perpetrated by the Myanmar government. The Karen people have been involved in armed conflict with the Myanmar

government for over 60 years. They are also victims of forced labor, government oppression, torture, and massacres. A ceasefire agreement between the Karen National Union and Myanmar government was signed in 2012, but it did not last. Additionally, there are cultural perceptions in Myanmar that it is a woman's job to care for the young, ailing, and elderly while the men are leaders.

In Bangladesh, gender discrimination exists as well. Women make up only one-third of the labor market in mainly low-level jobs. Trafficking also affects many Bangladesh women and the Rohingya women migrants also experience. The caste system has also perpetuated a lot of discrimination against the Dalit ("Untouchables" caste), Paharia people, and religious minorities, including Ahmadi, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, and Shi'a Muslim. These groups have been denied rights stated in the Bangladeshi Constitution.

In Myanmar, the Rohingya have historically been farmers or laborers on farms. Currently, the many who have fled to Bangladesh and taken shelter at the coastal region of Bangladesh, a district called Cox's Bazaar, known for its tourism and agriculture-based businesses, have been taking over the local wage market by charging cheaper rates than the local standard.

Alongside these conflicts, the economy of Myanmar has suffered. Tourists are staying away due to concerns about the human rights abuses, and the present bureaucracy is not giving the economy enough attention, nor does it have the officials and the knowledge to handle the economy, thus restricting loan and cash flow, further clogging up the economy. In Myanmar, Western tourism has gone down 25%, consumption has softened, investments have slowed, and the local currency (Kyat) has depreciated in value by 12% compared to the US dollar.

Bangladesh is a developing country and struggles with institutional weaknesses that will contribute to challenges in containing inflation, maintaining high economic growth, and failures in accelerating private investment. The two major propellers of the economy in Bangladesh (readymade garment exports and remittances) are likely to decline. Bangladesh's economy is weak due to its lack of diversification of economy and production. Their attempts to keep a low tax-GDP ratio result in low public expenditures, thus undermining development.

The Rakhine is rich in natural resources such as oil and gas, fish stocks, connections to the ocean, and yet it is one of the country's poorest states. This is because it struggles to attract foreign investments since raising international concerns over inclusive development. People in Rakhine have less access to sanitation, drinking water, and electricity compared to the other states in Myanmar; 78 percent live below the poverty line. The state's per capita GDP is 25 percent below Myanmar's average.

In Myanmar, the Rakhine state has an abundant supply of natural resources and is in a favorable location, close to the ocean, yet it is the second poorest state in Myanmar. The persecuted Rohingya minority who live there are restricted in the jobs they can take on top of the lacking employment opportunities in the impoverished region of the Rakhine state, leaving most of them jobless and thus not included in the economy of Myanmar.

#### **IV. Committee on Reconciliation**

We, as the OIC, define reconciliation as creating amity between people. In this case, we believe reconciliation for the Rohingya people would be to make sure they are returned to their homes in Myanmar, where they originally came from. Reconciliation has been going on for a long time in many countries after the Holocaust. Many memorials have been built across the world especially in Germany, like the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin, as well as the New England Holocaust Memorial in Boston. January 27 was made the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

These efforts at reconciliation have been successful in many ways. Germany fully accepts and understands what they did and have repented on multiple occasions. Germany has over twenty Holocaust memorials and museums today, and do their best to remember the Jewish victims of the Holocaust on International Holocaust Remembrance Day. While Jewish people and non-Jewish people still mourn the genocide in Germany, a tolerant and understanding relationship has been founded between Jews and Germans of today.

The Rohingya peoples have been undergone systematic discrimination and genocide for decades. They have been acknowledged by the OIC and the United Nations. The violence they have faced includes the burning of villages, rape of women and girls, and families being separated and killed. The Joint Response Plan that was created in February 2019 is seeking to provide assistance to Rohingya refugees that fled to Bangladesh.

Myanmar views reconciliation in multiple ways. While promoting acceptance and repairing the relationship between these two peoples, tolerance, respect, and peaceful coexistence have been trends in their past efforts. Myanmar may be attempting to reconcile with the Rohingya, as they signed an agreement with Bangladesh to give the Rohingya identification and assistance within two years. In the past, Myanmar has signed ceasefire documents with rebel groups to reconcile, showing that they feel rebel groups who have committed violent crimes deserve reconciliation with the state. Several of these attempts have been successful.

The Rakhine state lacks a genuine government. Despite the name, the Rakhine state contains people who are largely stateless and vulnerable. The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) has been attacking the Myanmar army after villages have been destroyed in the northern Rakhine state. Nevertheless, the Rakhine State seeks to restore human rights that have been violated to the Rohingya.

The Rohingya people have made it very clear that they do not want to be returned to Myanmar without citizenship. They fear retribution if they do, and they do not want to relive the experiences they have already endured. For many, their old homes do not even exist anymore. The Rohingya would prefer to be returned to Myanmar, but only with full documentation and citizenship. They hope that this would protect them from the retribution they fear would happen without this citizenship. As people whose dignity has been stripped away from them for years, they want the dignity and respect that should come with citizenship.

Myanmar has had a long history of conflict, especially since it became independent from British rule in 1948. Their road to democracy in the past 60 years has not been easy. Over time, the government has been trying to disarm the army as a whole through a series of ceasefire agreements. Fighting has also been occurring in northern Myanmar with the Kachin State, which is primarily Christian. The Metta Development Foundation was created in the 1990s to bring humanitarian needs to people harmed in the fighting. The ceasefire lasted 17 years until the government began attacks on many cultural states around Myanmar like the Kachin and Rohingya.

Until this point, the Rohingya have no well-known speakers. The history of the Rohingya has been written by many other people, but not the Rohingya people themselves. As refugees, the Rohingya are more focused on surviving the conditions in which they find themselves after being displaced from their homes than writing and telling their world about their history and what they deserve as people. Many other entities are standing up for the Rohingya, but the Rohingya themselves have not yet spoken up about their history and views. For the future history of the Rohingya, they are not currently being taught by the Myanmar government. Myanmar has refused to educate them because they deny the Rohingya citizenship. This means that all the new generation of Rohingya will only have been taught by their parents and family members. While this may get them some education, it will not be to match the standards of other children living in Myanmar. In this case, the new generation of Rohingya will not be able to write their own history as effectively, leading to the non-Rohingya history of Myanmar receiving more attention in history books.

The Rohingya are the ones we should believe. They are the underdogs who have neither the means nor media to talk about their stories. The Myanmar government is denying genocide as they believe they are ridding themselves of illegal Bangladeshi refugees as a form of ethnic cleansing. The Rohingya have mostly fled to Bangladesh but according to these refugees, their homes have been destroyed and their friends and family have suffered abuse and violence. The Myanmar government also claims that the Rohingya are Muslim terrorists attacking the government and army rather than refugees fighting to save what they have left of their homes.

Bangladesh views the Rohingya as fellow Muslims and refugees who are being persecuted. Understandably, the uncertainty of when the refugee flow will end causes strain on the Bangladeshi government and their resources. Bangladesh has suggested a plan for the Rohingya to be moved to an island where they could live. They have also proposed a solution that Myanmar would help Bangladesh by issuing identification to the Rohingya refugees within two years.

The Myanmar government places itself upon a biased standpoint. They are the ones funding their own army and acting against one's army is very difficult. They have also been denying genocide for such a long time that it would be difficult to suddenly admit to the war crimes. Typically, it is the governments that initiate reconciliation because they are the ones who have the funding to make any created programs last and succeed. The bias comes from their loyalty to their army and their religious beliefs.

Myanmar views the remembrance of its history as an important part of their future. However, they only seem to memorialize people of Myanmar who are not Rohingya. They have multiple memorials to the soldiers lost in the World Wars, but none of these people are Rohingya. Buddha statues can be seen all across the country, there are some huge national statues and sites dedicated to Buddha and Buddhism. However, although eighty-eight percent of the country is Buddhist, a sizable portion of it is Muslim. And yet there are no memorials or remembrances of anyone Muslim. If someone looked back at the memorials of today in Myanmar, they would not know that there were any Muslims in Myanmar.

## **V. Committee on Displacement**

The government of Myanmar is suspicious of the ethnic minority groups, removing political power from minority groups, effectively limiting direct control over the directions of their lives. Aside from political representation, minority groups are disenfranchised and have very little economic power. There are also special laws targeted at specific minority groups, such as with the Rohingya and a government-mandated “two-child” policy. The Rohingya have been denied their right to citizenship, with the government collecting back citizenship identification cards. The Myanmar population laws also specifically target minority groups, with the laws being implemented in areas with high minority populations.

The government of Myanmar has developed a policy on the treatment of the Rohingya people out of xenophobia, condoning violence and wrongful discrimination targeted towards the Rohingya. Ever since the beginning of anti-Muslim attacks in 2012, the Myanmar government has created a campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya minority, a campaign of violence that has resulted in the systematic segregation of the Rohingya population. In 2012, the Myanmar government reinstated the “two-child policy” exclusively for the Rohingya, as a blatant attempt to reduce and control their population. In 2014, the Rohingya were forced to identify as illegal Bengali immigrants rather than Muslim citizens of Myanmar, as is their birthright. In 2015, hundreds of thousands of Rohingya lost their government-issued identification cards, along with their voting rights.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation has condemned the actions of the Myanmar government, and will continue to support our Muslim brothers to the best of our capacity. We believe the Rohingya people should be reinstated as citizens of the Myanmar government with full and equal rights.

Currently, 1.1 million refugees in Bangladesh are housed in the world’s largest refugee camp. This is in the southern part of Bangladesh where large desert plains are. There are even plans to move a large portion of refugees to a remote island, where they can be confined and have more effective security. The living conditions in these refugee camps are nothing short of tents, with a few supporting beams. Refugees are not afforded significant rights, leading to an epidemic of children who are either engaging in crime or staying in their homes rather than

receiving a proper education. Refugees are not given official refugee status, and are therefore stuck behind a wall that separates them from their camp to the rest of the world. Bangladeshi born Rohingyas are not given citizenship, which only increases the number of refugees stuck in these camps.

Since 2018, more than 1.1 million Rohingya refugees have entered Bangladesh, but these refugees lack many basic resources such as food, clean water, education and other services in their hastily established refugee camps. Most of the Rohingya reside at the Kutupalong-Balukhali camps and the smaller camps that surround it at the southern border of Bangladesh. On March 1st, 2019, the government of Bangladesh announced that refugees would no longer be accepted.

The Bangladesh government has seemingly adopted a policy of segregating the Rohingya refugees from the main population. Rohingya children born in Bangladesh are not granted citizenship, and those who entered Bangladesh are not officially recognized as refugees, which is a loophole used by the government to prevent the Rohingya from having access to public services and citizenship.

The majority of the Rohingya population reside in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia. Neither of the two largest Rohingya populations in Bangladesh and Myanmar is recognized as citizens. Myanmar stripped them of their citizenship in their 1982 law regarding the Rohingya, while the most recent repatriation deal signed between Bangladesh and Myanmar governments do not guarantee their reinstatement as citizens. In July 2019, King Salman of Saudi Arabia granted citizenship to the Rohingya people, including refugees. In Pakistan, the Rohingya are persecuted and unable to identify as official citizens, and many are forced to pretend to be Bengali in order to gain citizenship rights.

According to the United Nations Refugee Agency, a person is stateless if they are “not recognized as a national by any state under the operation of its law.” In other words, the U.N. definition says that they do not have a nationality. Stateless people still have the right to education, employment, housing, identity, and travel documents. We define statelessness to be the same as the definition given by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In relation to the Rohingya people in Myanmar, we recognize their status as a stateless people due to the fact that they are forced to identify as illegal Bengali immigrants, and denied citizenship within their rightful state.

Through the 1954 convention, the United Nations believe that stateless people should be afforded at least a minimum amount of human rights. Some of these requirements are the right to education, the right to housing, and the right to job employment. They also “guarantees stateless people a right to identity, travel documents and administrative assistance.” The Rohingya are afforded nearly none of these rights. Recently, the UN has backed the Myanmar proposed “National Verification Cards,” which would be the first step in the Rohingya gaining citizenship. However, these cards are effectively useless for the Rohingya, with the cards only being used as tracking devices for the Myanmar government.

As seen by this aversive treatment, the Rakhine State does not want the Rohingya back, having driven them from and destroyed their homes. The government said that their killings were carried out to eliminate the militants that had rebelled against police posts, and that they had stopped, but the murders are still occurring. They deny killing the Rohingya innocents, but more than 7000 have been killed. They also claimed that the military was being used to maintain stability in the Western part of their country. Many of the Rohingya villages were burnt down, so even if the Rohingya were to come back, they would be forced into camps. The Rohingya villages were specifically targeted, as other Rakhine minority villages were left intact. As such they have remained as refugees in Bangladesh, giving rise to a different set of humanitarian conflicts.

Bangladesh does not want the Rohingya to stay as refugees. Bangladesh is already struggling to handle the 1.1 million refugees and have moved some to a remote island, Bhasan Char. The authorities are frustrated with domestic political pressure to resolve the crisis and with the lack of security in these camps. Security has introduced stringent safety measures at refugee camps. The government is struggling and irritated by the lack of progress in repatriating any of the estimated one million Rohingya refugees on its soil. Bangladesh should build safe housing, improve refugees' educational and livelihood opportunities, and support refugee-hosting communities.

The principle of non-refoulement is a fundamental principle of international law that prevents countries from returning asylum seekers to a country where they would be susceptible to persecution based on their race, ethnicity, religion, or other beliefs. In the case of the Rohingya, the widely accepted practice of non-refoulement would prevent countries such as Bangladesh from returning their refugees to Myanmar. We believe non-refoulement is key in preventing the continued mistreatment and persecution of the Rohingya people within the Rakhine state.

Within Bangladesh, refugees have very few basic rights. They are denied access to a proper education by the government of Bangladesh. The government has had very little effort in attempting to improve the status of Rohingya refugees. The country has not signed multilateral agreements to recognize the basic rights and protections of their refugees, thus denying the Rohingya of formal refugee status. This only makes it more impossible to integrate the refugee population, and limiting their freedom of movement beyond their camps. These refugees have limited access to food, water, and horrible living conditions. In terms of medical care and police protection, these aspects are foreign to refugees. Security in these camps has significantly decreased over the years, while crime rates have spiked. Pervasive poverty and tensions with local Bangladeshis have led to growing concerns about security within Rohingya camps. Around 70% of the Rohingya population is uneducated. This is about 683,000 children without access to any type of classroom learning. Even if schools are established, Rohingya teachers are denied Burmese and Bangladeshi curricula.

Prior to the conflict, Myanmar was the world's most Buddhist country, in terms of religious spending and funding. Although 89% of the country are Theravada Buddhists,

Rohingya Muslims make up anywhere from 4-20% and Christians and Hindus make up the rest. The Rohingya Muslims, who live in the northern Rakhine State, have faced cultural oppression and have not been recognized by the nation as Myanmar citizens. The Rohingya Crisis making headlines across the world is the conflict between the Theravada Buddhists and the Rohingya Muslims. Around 4% of Myanmar's population practices Christianity, of which four-fifths are Protestants and the remainder Catholic. Most Burmese Christians are to be found amongst the Kachin, Chin and Karen ethnic minorities. During the British colonization of Myanmar, an influx of Indians went to Myanmar, therefore approximately 2% of the total population accounts for Hindus.

The main ethnic groups living in the seven ethnic minority states of Burma are the Karen, Shan, Mon, Chin, Kachin, Rakhine and Karenni. Other main groups include the Nagas, who live in north Burma and are estimated to number more than 100,000, constituting another complex family of Tibetan-Burmese language subgroups.

The ethnic minority groups in Myanmar, especially the Rohingya, are being targeted by the Myanmar government in an attempt by the government to “reinstiate stability.” There is no policy in place to aid the assimilation of the Rohingya, with the Myanmar government taking away their citizenship, which renders them stateless. The government in Myanmar has effectively institutionalized discrimination and racism against the Rohingya, which is forcing them to leave the country. They have forced the Rohingya to move into government camps, only being allowed out of these camps through verification of a government ID. The Rohingya also have limited access to education and civil service jobs.

The Rohingya are not integrated in either Myanmar or Bangladesh, with both countries limiting the rights of the Rohingya. The Myanmar government has targeted the Rohingya in an ethnic cleansing, forcing them to live in camps and subjecting them to atrocities and human rights abuses. They have revoked the Rohingya their citizenship and forced special laws upon them. Due to the influx of Rohingya in Bangladesh, there are neither resources nor land to support them all. They are also put into camps, where conditions are unsatisfactory. 60% of the available water in these camps is contaminated and the risk of disease is high. Nearly all the children in these camps lack access to education, with both Bangladesh and Myanmar teaching curriculum banned in the camps.

## **VI. Committee on Law**

The OIC believes that genocide affects all people across the world. When Cambodian Muslims were killed by the Khmer Rouge, journalists worldwide wrote about the horrors and forced the rest of the world to condemn these actions. In Rwanda, the difficult journey of social reunion and healing, after a racial genocide of imperialistic design, has been successful. The divisions and pain, while everlasting, have begun to heal as the community remains open to progress. These local efforts are vital in long-term peace, but we must not disregard the importance of national and international action. The Nuremberg trials brought the international



community together in a conviction of hate crimes and violence, bringing the light of justice over those affected. As in these notorious trials, so too must the Myanmar state be held accountable for their racially charged and politically driven acts of targeted, genocidal violence.

The Rohingya crisis in Myanmar, as those which have come before, will continue to affect the world for years to come. The international community may rally behind the victims, but the victims will be followed by these events for their whole lives. The crimes of genocide are not just crimes against people, but crimes against humanity. The OIC condemns all atrocious acts of any magnitude, and we pledge the strongest support for the Rohingya and implore nearby member states to defend this oppressed people by any means necessary.

The first step towards justice is accountability. With great respect for the international courts, we have worked for both the ICJ and the ICC in defending the Rohingya minority. We have been compiling evidence and documents, building a case for our Rohingya brothers to make a conviction of genocide possible. We have also sued Myanmar beside the Gambia lawsuit for the safe and dignified return of Rohingya to Myanmar, as well as full accountability by the Myanmar state. Should such a conviction come to pass, the Rohingya people will be given a voice on the international stage: a ruling which would provide the necessary legitimacy to marginalized people. While there has been considerable success from the ICC concerning Rwanda and Bosnia, certain political interests - particularly those of China - and refusal for cooperation from the primary perpetrators, Tatmadaw, proves to be a significant hindrance to the humanitarian judicial process.

Although the International Criminal Court (ICC) will deliver verdicts in the most serious manner, they have no way of enforcing their decisions, and nations who do not agree, will not comply. By the time the case could be resolved, it would be much too late. Backed by China and Tatmadaw, driven by political hatred, the government of Myanmar will refuse to acknowledge or follow an indictment decision by the ICC. So, even as this pushes for more action against Myanmar, the world is obligated to stronger action than the international court system can give. This ruling, necessary by nature, is just the start of reuniting the Rohingya people with their homes and families. Action by the international community in active condemnation against oppression is vital to the restoration and rehabilitation of the Rohingya.

The ICC has been founded on the Rome Statute, giving the organization jurisdiction over four main crimes committed by any nation. Those four main crimes are crimes against humanity, war crimes, crimes of aggression, and genocide. The ICC's main responsibility is to prosecute for any of the four crimes under its jurisdiction. Meanwhile, the International Court of Justice is a judicial sector of the United Nations whose main purpose is the settle disputes between nations as well as giving advisory opinions on legal issues referred to it by the UN. The ICJ would deal with issues such as borders between Israel and Palestine or Indian and Pakistan. Of the two organizations, the ICJ is the least effective as the states in question must submit to appearing before the Court and to be bound by its decisions. By agreeing to anything at that point is to have to stand by an unsupported verdict.

The ICC, however, can try any individual if the nation concerned does not or is unwilling to submit to explicit jurisdiction. Because of this greater independence from another overarching body, the ICC is much more effective in rule and enforcement. In those rulings modeled after the Nuremberg trials, victims of genocidal actions have received due justice, with peace and rehabilitation achieved post-trauma. The ICC has produced results as the beginning of justice, forcing an abusive body to take accountability, and obligating the greater community to act in unprecedented ways in the support of those victimized. As such, the OIC will continue to support the ICC in its pursuit of justice to the Rohingya and all Muslim people being hunted by the Myanmar government.

Despite government denial, the Rohingya are the most targeted of this ongoing conflict. There are extensive accounts and reports of Rohingya women being raped, abused, and kidnapped. Over 300 Rohingya villages have been bulldozed or burned in an attempt at covering up key evidence of targeted war crimes. Over 1.1 million have now fled to Bangladesh, waiting for a successful repatriation agreement that consults all parties, and provides the protection of Rohingya civil rights and liberties. The Myanmar government has denied claims of widespread abuse and, with the backing of Japan and especially China, will continue to do so.

Unlike local law, the international courts have no military at their disposal to enforce their jurisdiction. They must rely on the United Nations to provide troops if humanitarian law is violated. Unfortunately, the deployment of troops is subject to veto, particularly by Myanmar's ally, China. With this veto power in place, Myanmar is not obligated to follow international law as they have shown in the past. The UN requested a report of abuse against the Rakhine state, and they refused. They were ordered to fulfill their obligations under the genocide convention, but have continued to deny allegations of what has become a clear ethnic cleansing, and have continued to cover up human rights abuses.

Even when brought to court for Gambias's allegations, Aung San Yuu Kyi conceded only that her military used excessive force. She agreed to regulate and hold the military accountable, as well as to promote racial peace and reconciliation. Should she fulfill the demands of the United Nations and supranational courts in full, Myanmar would fulfill their obligations to the Genocide Convention. However, since her statements, the persecution of Rohingya has become only more volatile, and Myanmar has continued to put on a front to the international community while denying an oppressed Muslim group even the most basic rights established by the international community.

Myanmar should not be protected from consequences by a single powerful ally. They must be held accountable for their actions, and the international community must stand in condemnation of these gross violations. First, the Myanmar government has at its disposal the 1982 Law, which deprives the Rohingya of citizenship in Myanmar. The OIC would like to initiate a review of the 1982 Law and develop a new citizenship law. Any new law would need to conform to the international law standards and would be including non-discrimination policies within it to prevent citizenship discrimination based on ethnicity, race, or religion. Myanmar, in general, has little to say on migration policy, but about 20% of the Myanmar population is an

internal migrant, which includes refugee Rohingya. The main religion in Myanmar is Buddhism, with roughly 90% of the population practicing it. Meanwhile, only 4% of the nation practices Islam, comprised predominantly of Rohingya Muslims. This theological divide is undoubtedly playing a role in the discrimination of the Muslim population and a role in the reasons behind the genocide. When the reform happens in Myanmar, we will step in to ensure that the protection of all people is included in new legislation to create a more just Myanmar.

Local law is the legal decisions put forward by the courts, whereas customary law is the adaptation of precedent to modern situations. As a former colony of the United Kingdom, Myanmar law comprises of constitutions, legislations, customary law and English common law. English common law is applied in the absence of local legislation or judicial precedent. In the absence of such, courts are given discretionary power to determine whether or not a law is in accordance with justice, equity and good conscience.

Under international law, contrary to local Myanmar law, the Rohingya people are afforded the same rights as everyone else. They are guaranteed the rights to patronship and citizenship, denied by the Myanmar government. They are guaranteed basic civil rights. They are guaranteed the right to own property, seized and razed by the Myanmar state. They are protected from trafficking and enslavement, violated in abundant sex trafficking and kidnapping of Rohingya women and children. They are guaranteed the safety from arbitrary detention, freedom of movement, right to asylum, and basic living standard. All of these rights have been denied to the Rohingya people by the Myanmar establishment.

Though compelled to follow international law, Myanmar has continued to use national law to deny the Rohingya their birthright. The Rohingya have been denied rights to citizenship, as Myanmar government claims that their rightful nationality is from Bangladesh rather than Myanmar. As such, these people of rightful Myanmar citizenship are denied the privileges afforded to legal citizens. This statelessness also allows Myanmar to control the movement of the Muslim Rohingya, especially in Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung townships along the border with Bangladesh, restricting their ability to travel, engage in economic activity, obtain an education, and register births, deaths, and marriages.

Minority groups as a whole have pushed for a form of a federal state, giving voice and power to minority groups. As of now, however, these minority groups are not afforded the right to create their own laws under an oppressive, anti-muslim regime.

## **VII. Committee on Human Rights**

The Rohingya are a Muslim minority population inhabiting the Rakhine state region in Western Myanmar. They are said to be descended from Arab traders in the region. The practice of their religion has led to cleavages within Myanmar's society, because those of more dominant ethnic groups (e.g. the Bamar, who comprise around 68% of the population), are overly concerned with the religion of the Rohingya and are unwilling to accept them into their society

or treat them with respect. This diversity of religion has caused cleavages in Myanmar society, especially because the government is unwilling to recognize the Rohingya as citizens.

There is no official state religion in Myanmar, however, Buddhism is by far the dominant belief system, practiced by about 88% of the population. As explained above, much of the Buddhist majority is unable to accept the Rohingya's religious practices, and Buddhists have displayed shocking violence toward the Rohingya. The constitution does not protect religious freedom. Meanwhile, the state religion of Bangladesh is Islam, with Muslims comprising about 90% of the country's population. The constitution does allow the peaceful practice of other religions, and Islamic law is not formally imposed (laws vary based on religions of those involved), but the country does have a history of massacres targeted towards religious minorities.

It has been officially decided by the United Nations that the Myanmar government has violated the Rohingya's human rights. Hau Do San, Myanmar's ambassador to the UN rejected this decision, and claimed that it was "another classic example of double-standards [and] selective and discriminatory application of human rights norms". The failure of the government of Myanmar to recognize the atrocities committed by the Tatmadaw is an atrocity in itself and highlights the necessity of intervention at an international level. He also claimed that this decision would further alienate the Rohingya from the Buddhist minority and would escalate tensions. Aung San Suu Kyi described the findings that contributed to this decision as "incomplete and incorrect" and blamed the Rohingya for the treatment that has been thrust upon them. We believe that these claims are preposterous and are only a symptom of the lack of an adequate response from Myanmar's leaders, who are utilizing any explanation that they can find.

In 2015, the government of Bangladesh unveiled a controversial plan which would relocate the Rohingya refugees to the uninhabited island of Bhasan Char. This plan was received poorly by many human rights activists and the United Nations, because of the location's unpredictability, namely reports that the island could entirely disappear during the monsoon season. As of now, however, the Rohingya inhabit refugee camps outside of Cox's Bazar. The OIC strongly urges that the refugees not be relocated to this island, unless it can be categorically proven that it is a habitable and stable option. We also believe that discussion of a more permanent solution than the refugee camps needs to be undertaken, as the current situation is detrimental to the Rohingya community. Their situation is especially sensitive because of the intense trauma that they've undergone which is oftentimes a cause for serious mental health issues. Managing these cases has been very difficult in Bangladesh, due to a large number of refugees and failure to correctly diagnose these issues when they arise, because of the lack of cultural understanding from a Western perspective.

Countries including the United States and France, as well as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, are providing humanitarian aid to the Rohingya. Although Bangladesh offers refugee camps, the sheer number of refugees the country receives has caused a decline in the effectiveness of the services they are able to provide. The Rohingya at these camps do not have access to basic human necessities such as education, food, sanitation, and clean water, making them vulnerable to disease. The Rohingya situation has been declared a crisis,

specifically a genocide, and the UN launched the Joint Response Plan (JRP) for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis in 2018 to try and help. In the UN Security Council, China has sided with Myanmar, although the foreign minister has demonstrated a desire to find a solution.

The Rakhine region borders the country of Bangladesh, and Rohingya have long sought refuge there. There are now approximately 1.1 million Rohingya in Bangladesh. As of March 2019, however, the government of Bangladesh decided that it would no longer accept refugees fleeing persecution in Myanmar. The refugee camps where the Rohingya are occupying are breeding grounds for diseases such as hepatitis A and E. The OIC strongly believes that steps need to be taken by both the Myanmar government and the Bangladesh government in order to reconcile this issue and ensure a more secure and future for the Rohingya people in a place where they can enjoy more hygienic circumstances. Bangladesh has taken very promising steps for ensuring that Rohingya refugees be properly educated, such as their upcoming project which will enroll 10,000 Rohingya children in school, but the OIC believes that concerns surrounding more basic needs, such as personal safety and health are more pressing at the current moment and must not be overlooked or forgotten.

We would like to applaud the African nation of Gambia for its role in seeking justice for the cruel treatment of the Rohingya and are pleased to see that their effort has been a success, as the UN mandates action from the Myanmar government to put a stop to the situation. Myanmar's response, however, has been extremely disappointing and their denial is a sign that further action is probably necessary. However, hopefully with Amal Clooney hired by the Maldives to represent the Rohingya at the United Nations Court. The Maldives, as well as The Gambia, are great advocates of the rights of the Rohingya. However, thus far, international efforts have not been very effective in helping the Rohingya, and, we also encourage countries and organizations to continue to provide aid to the refugees so as to meet their basic human rights while they are held in camps.

In 2018, the UN launched the Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis, aiming to raise \$951 million in life-saving assistance. The United States remains the leading contributor and has provided more than \$669 million since August 2017. France has given €300,000 as well as food aid. Additionally, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is also providing humanitarian aid in the form of lifesaving aid such as sleeping mats, tents, and kitchen sets, as well as construction facilitation, and improvement of water and sanitation facilities.

It comes as no surprise that many of the Rohingya are not prepared to return to Myanmar. The conditions they have undergone have left many with trauma and mental health issues, and the cruelty they have faced hardly makes Myanmar an exciting prospect to which to return. If the Rohingya were, in fact, to return to Myanmar, the government of Myanmar must be held accountable in providing them their basic human rights, and the Rohingya must be allowed to move of their own accord. Religious persecution must be monitored by the UN and other countries to ensure that a repeat of this crisis does not occur.