



OIC/ACM/CG-ROHINGYA/REP/2022/FINAL

**REPORT
OF THE
MEETING OF THE CONTACT GROUP ON ROHINGYA MUSLIMS OF
MYANMAR**

**HELD ON THE SIDELINES OF THE
ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE
OIC MEMBER STATES**

**NEW YORK, USA
21 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE CONTACT GROUP
ON ROHINGYA MUSLIMS OF MYANMAR
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1. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Contact Group on Rohingya Muslims of Myanmar held their meeting on the sidelines of the Annual Coordination Meeting on 21 September 2022 in New York under the Chairmanship of His Excellency the Secretary General, Houssein Ibrahim Taha;
2. The OIC Secretary General H.E. Houssein Ibrahim Taha and other members of the OIC Contact Group addressed the meeting;
3. The Meeting welcomed the statement of the OIC Secretary General and commended his resolute commitment in raising global awareness on the predicament of the Rohingya and his constant efforts to galvanize the support of the international community for the Rohingya cause;
4. The Meeting reaffirmed the strong condemnation of the systematic brutal acts and horrendous atrocities perpetrated against the Rohingya Muslim Community in Myanmar, especially post 25 August 2017, which constitute a serious and blatant violation of international law, international human rights conventions as well as violations of international humanitarian law and in total disregard of Myanmar's state responsibility to protect its unarmed civilian Muslim minority;
5. The Meeting expressed serious concern over the fact that the Rohingya community continues to face systematic discrimination in Rakhine state, including killing, rape, eviction and forced expulsion of inhabitants and persistent blatant violations of the human rights of the Rohingya Muslims, including after Myanmar's military coup on 1 February 2021;
6. The Meeting expressed deep indignation at credible reports, assessments and conclusions of various international and human rights organizations that recent atrocities are part of a systematic strategy and plan of ethnic cleansing of Rohingya Muslims of Rakhine State;
7. The Meeting expressed once again, its deep concern over the humanitarian and human rights situation in Rakhine State of Myanmar and underscored the fact that the continuation of the current situation can engender serious adverse repercussions in the region and beyond;
8. The Meeting expressed full solidarity with the People's Republic of Bangladesh for its generous support in hosting and sheltering the Rohingya refugees. It called on OIC Member States and the international community to further support Bangladesh in providing humanitarian assistance to the Rohingya refugees until their voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable repatriation to Myanmar;
9. The Meeting called upon the Government of Myanmar:

- a) To honor its obligations under International Law and Human Rights covenants, and to take all measures to immediately halt all vestiges and manifestations of the practice of ethnic cleansing, genocide, violence of all types, vigilantism, acts of dispersion and discriminatory practices against Rohingya Muslims;
- b) To eliminate the root causes, including the denial of citizenship based on the 1982 Citizenship Act which has led to statelessness and deprivation of their rights, and the continued dispossession and discrimination affecting the Rohingya Muslim Minorities, and work towards a just and sustainable solution to this issue;
- c) To facilitate international, independent and impartial investigations into allegations of human rights abuses, atrocities and violations against Rohingya Muslims carried out by members of the military, other Government agents and members of vigilante groups, and to hold to account all those responsible for such acts;
- d) To take urgent measures for a sustainable implementation of the “Arrangement on return of displaced persons from Rakhine State” with the Government of Bangladesh, signed on 23 November 2017 and subsequent arrangements and mechanisms agreed, by ensuring that the repatriation of any Rohingya refugees to Myanmar must be voluntary, safe, dignified, sustainable and uphold their human rights;
- e) To allow Rohingya Muslims unhindered freedom of movement within Rakhine State to pursue livelihood options and to access healthcare and education without any hindrance;
- f) To reverse and abandon policies, directives and practices that marginalize the Rohingya community economically and socially, such as demolition of houses under the pretext that their houses were unauthorized, confiscation of lands in the name of development and social projects delegitimizing their ownership of lands, depriving them from business opportunities and accessing market places as well as employment opportunities;
- g) To implement the recommendations of the Rakhine State Commission, chaired by the former UN Secretary General, Mr Kofi Annan, issued on 24 August 2017, in a swift and timely manner for stability, peace and prosperity in Rakhine State, in full consultation with all the communities concerned.
- h) To take steps for the effective implementation of the tripartite agreement signed on 6 June 2018 with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). This is a necessary step towards establishing a framework for cooperation between the United Nations and Myanmar in order to create conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable repatriation of refugees and to help create improved and resilient livelihoods for all communities living in Rakhine State;

- i) To positively respond to the OIC's offer to establish a medical facility in the State of Rakhine to address the healthcare needs of all communities and to respond positively to the proposal of establishing a technical school and to conducting a symposium on inter-faith dialogue;
 - j) To take proactive measures to protect the remaining Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine State from being exploited by human traffickers.
10. The Meeting invited OIC Member States to join the efforts of the international community towards lifting all restrictions on freedom of movement in Rakhine state and ensuring an inclusive and transparent citizenship verification process that leaves no individual unregistered nor hinders their access to essential social services, including education and health care;
 11. The Meeting commended the efforts made by OIC Member States in providing humanitarian assistance to the affected Rohingya communities in Myanmar and Bangladesh and called on the Member States, OIC institutions and Islamic NGOs to continue to extend generously humanitarian assistance in order to alleviate the suffering of Rohingya refugees and IDPs, including supporting the efforts of the host countries;
 12. The Meeting commended the Government of Bangladesh for containing the spread of the COVID-19 virus in the Rohingya camps effectively since the outbreak of the pandemic and avoiding loss of life with the support of all relevant national and international partners, including the host community, and for including Rohingya in the national vaccination drive;
 13. The Meeting underlined the importance of holding accountable all those responsible for brutal acts and crimes against the Rohingya Muslims, in order to deliver justice to victims using all legal instruments and international judicial mechanisms, including the International Court of Justice;
 14. The Meeting commended the leading role of The Gambia, Chair of the OIC Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee on Human Rights Violations against the Rohingya, for introducing a legal case before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on behalf of the OIC to end the culture of impunity by bringing the perpetrators to justice for gross violations of international human rights and humanitarian laws and principles;
 15. The Meeting underscored the collective efforts that had led to the historic and unanimous Order of the ICJ, in January 2020, on Provisional Measures, urging Myanmar to cease all actions that could amount to genocide and to preserve any evidence related to any acts of genocide;
 16. The Meeting urged Myanmar to fully comply with the Order of the Court and take all measures to prevent the commission of all acts of genocide against the Rohingya;
 17. The Meeting welcomed the ruling by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague on July 22, 2022, rejecting Myanmar's preliminary objections to the case;

18. The Meeting called upon all OIC Member States to stand firmly with The Gambia and provide all necessary support, including financial one for the legal case, on a voluntary basis, in accordance with the principles of shared responsibility, and in the spirit of Islamic solidarity;
19. The Meeting invited the OIC Member States and the international community to continue their efforts to assist in the repatriation of the Rohingya to their homeland in Myanmar;
20. The Meeting underscored the need for concrete actions by the UN Security Council to facilitate the sustainable repatriation of the Rohingya to their homeland;
21. The Meeting appreciated the dispatch of a delegation from the OIC General Secretariat to Bangladesh, from 27 February to 2 March 2021, to hold talks with concerned stakeholders on the Rohingya issue and take stock of the conditions of the Rohingya Refugees.
22. The Meeting requested the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) to continue to raise the situation of the Rohingya Muslim Minority as a priority issue on its agenda and particularly during the upcoming sessions of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva;
23. The Meeting welcomed the adoption, on 7 July 2022, by the UN Human Rights Council of the OIC-Group led resolution A/HRC/50/L.21 on “Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar”, and called upon the Permanent Missions of the OIC Member States in Geneva to actively participate in all debates in the Human Rights Council on Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar.
24. The Meeting encouraged the Contact Group on Rohingya Muslim Minority of Myanmar to make necessary visits to the refugee camps in Bangladesh and Myanmar in this regard.
25. The Meeting requested that the Permanent Missions of the OIC Member States in New York, Geneva and Brussels convene meetings of the Contact Group on Rohingya Muslim Minority of Myanmar on a regular basis to review the situation of the Rohingya Muslim minority and explore sustained engagement strategies with Myanmar, the United Nations, the European Union, and other international organizations, and report to the OIC Secretary General.