



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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137th IPU Assembly

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Ending the grave human crisis, persecution and violent attacks on the Rohingya as a threat to international peace and security and ensuring their unconditional and safe return to their homeland in Myanmar

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 137th IPU Assembly
(St. Petersburg, 17 October 2017)*

The 137th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling the Resolution adopted unanimously by the 117th IPU Assembly (Geneva, 10 October 2007) on *The urgent need to immediately stop the widespread human rights violations and to restore the democratic rights of the people of Myanmar*, and also recalling the Resolution adopted unanimously by the 133rd IPU Assembly (Geneva, 21 October 2015) on *The role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, parliaments, parliamentarians, and international and regional organizations in providing necessary protection and urgent support to those who have become refugees through war, internal conflict and social circumstances, according to the principles of international humanitarian law and international conventions*,

Reaffirming the relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 70/233, 68/242, 67/233 and 66/230 on the Situation of human rights in Myanmar,

Taking into account the Charter of the United Nations (1945), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1963), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966) and the First Optional Protocol (1966),

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/238 which recognizes the Rohingya ethnic minority in the Northern Rakhine State of Myanmar and United Nations General Assembly resolution 69/248 which urges the Government of Myanmar to grant citizenship and equal rights to the Rohingya ethnic minority,

Profoundly distressed by the continuing violence, forced displacement and serious violations of human rights experienced by ethnic Rohingya in the Rakhine State of Myanmar,

Particularly shocked by the practice of ethnic cleansing in the Northern Rakhine State of Myanmar which is aimed at the displacement or destruction of ethnic or religious groups,

Expressing concern over the unprecedented exodus of the Rohingya to Bangladesh and the humanitarian and potential security consequences for Bangladesh and the region,

Taking note of the United Nations Secretary-General's comments and concerns regarding ethnic cleansing,

Welcoming the Government of Bangladesh's efforts to assist the forcibly displaced Rohingya by offering temporary refuge and *appreciating* the support provided by United Nations agencies and other countries and international partners,

* The delegation of China expressed a reservation on parts of the resolution, while the delegation of Myanmar rejected the entire resolution.

Deeply concerned by the placing of anti-personnel mines in violation of international norms along the border to prevent the Rohingya from returning to Myanmar,

Welcoming the final report and recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State led by Kofi Annan,

Expressing deep sorrow for the victims of the atrocities perpetrated by the Myanmar security forces and extremist ethnic Rakhine civilian vigilantes and *also expressing* profound sympathy to the Rohingya,

1. *Strongly condemns* all gross violations of human rights in the Rakhine State of Myanmar, including the loss of many innocent lives, and, particularly, the abhorrent practice of ethnic cleansing, and *calls on* the Government of Myanmar to cease these violations with immediate effect and ensure full respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons, without distinction of race or religion;
2. *Supports* the United Nations Human Rights Council's decision to send an independent, accountable multinational team to investigate the alleged human rights violations committed by the security forces in Rakhine State;
3. *Expresses grave concern* regarding the recent atrocities perpetrated by security forces and their extremist civilian accomplices against the Rohingya minority, which constitute serious and blatant violations of international laws;
4. *Calls upon* the authorities of Myanmar to take urgent and immediate action to end all violence and to confront all practices that are in violation of human rights, international law and the international covenants;
5. *Also calls upon* the United Nations Security Council, the United Nations Human Rights Council and all relevant international and regional organizations to urgently intervene without delay and halt the human tragedy affecting the Rohingya minority, and to address the crisis, which represents a threat to international security and peace;
6. *Appreciates* the efforts of the Government of Bangladesh to provide some one million distressed Rohingya with, inter alia, shelter, food, sanitation, water and medical attention;
7. *Also appreciates* the Government of Indonesia's support for the processes of military reform and democratization in Myanmar by respecting democratic values and ensuring the protection of minorities;
8. *Further appreciates* the solidarity expressed by other countries, as well as United Nations agencies and other international organizations to the forcibly displaced Rohingya, and the support and assistance that they have provided;
9. *Invites* all IPU Member Parliaments to join the efforts towards securing the basic rights of the Rohingya, extending humanitarian support to the Rohingya and supporting the action of Bangladesh and the international community aimed at the sustainable return of the Rohingya people to their homeland of Myanmar, and *also invites* them to contribute to the restoration of stability and security in Rakhine State;
10. *Regrets* that the Parliament of Myanmar has yet to take any measures to halt the violence and put an end to the tragic situation affecting the Rohingya in Rakhine State;
11. *Strongly stresses* that the Government of Myanmar must eliminate the root causes of the crisis, including the denial of citizenship to the Rohingya people based on the 1982 Citizenship Act which has led to their statelessness and deprivation of their rights, and to their continued dispossession;

12. *Firmly calls upon* the authorities of Myanmar to grant citizenship and all other rights to the Rohingya people, including freedom of movement and access to the labour market, education and health and social services;
13. *Calls on* the Government of Myanmar
 - (a) to cease the violence and practice of ethnic cleansing in Rakhine State immediately, unconditionally and forever,
 - (b) to ensure the sustainable return of all forcibly displaced Rohingya sheltered in Bangladesh to their homes in Myanmar within the shortest possible time,
 - (c) to implement the recommendations of Kofi Annan's Commission Report immediately, unconditionally and entirely;
14. *Urges* the international community, in particular the United Nations, to seriously consider further action to address the ongoing crisis in Myanmar and *calls on* the Government of Myanmar to urgently grant access to the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission to Myanmar so that it can conduct a thorough and independent investigation into all alleged atrocities and gross violations of human rights in Rakhine State;
15. *Recommends strongly* the creation, as required, of temporary safe zones inside Myanmar under United Nations supervision to protect all civilians irrespective of religion and ethnicity;
16. *Calls for* a sustainable solution to the human rights situation in Rakhine State through the formulation of a peace-building plan;
17. *Also calls for* inclusive integration programmes for Rohingya refugees in the receiving countries;
18. *Recommends* unfettered media and humanitarian access in the Northern Rakhine State;
19. *Strongly calls upon* the Government of Myanmar to take measures against the anti-Rohingya hate campaign in Myanmar as well as to stop civilian vigilantism and extremism;
20. *Urges* all parliaments to encourage their respective governments to intensify diplomatic pressure on Myanmar at all levels to put an end to the tragic situation in the Rakhine State of Myanmar which constitutes a grave threat to international peace and security;
21. *Calls on* the IPU through its Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law to explore appropriate and practical measures to be undertaken by the global parliamentary community to address the situation of the Rohingya people and provide a peaceful and sustainable solution to the crisis and, in particular, to invite all IPU Member Parliaments to inform the IPU of all measures they have taken in that regard in order that the IPU may report on the implementation of this Resolution at the 138th IPU Assembly;
22. *Requests* the IPU Secretary General to convey the present resolution to the IPU Member Parliaments, the United Nations Secretary-General and the relevant international and regional organizations;
23. *Resolves* to remain vigilant regarding further developments in Myanmar.