



44th SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Item 2: Interactive Dialogue on the situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslim minority and other minorities in Myanmar – 30 June 2020

Background documentation:

- [A/HRC/RES/S-27/1¹](#) Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 5 December 2017 “Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar”

Michelle Bachelet – High Commissioner for Human Rights:

Discriminations against minority groups in Myanmar have been a practice in the country since 50 years.

War in the Rakhine state further exacerbated the Rohingya’s vulnerability. We call on all parties to extend the ceasefire.

The **Covid-19 pandemic** further exacerbated the dire living conditions of the Rohingya minority.

We have been documenting patterns of **serious violations of human rights**, including air strikes and shielding of civilian populations. According to witnesses, areas where dozens of Rohingya villages once stood are now in ashes.

Rohingya remain stateless and cannot access public services. The government must take action to restore the **citizenship rights of the Rohingya people**.

The Commission of Inquiry on Myanmar delivered its report. The OHCHR welcomes it and urges the government to publish the report.

In 2017, the **Human Rights Council’s resolution** ([A/HRC/RES/S-27/1](#)) sought a comprehensive solution to the Rohingya crisis within 3 years. We are far from this goal today.

What can be done to ensure accountability for the violations committed in Myanmar? Efforts made by the **Human Rights Council** as well as the **International Criminal Court** and the **International Court of Justice** decisions.

Country concerned – Myanmar:

The situation in the Rakhine state is one of the **numerous challenges Myanmar is facing today**.

Myanmar’s government is taking different measures in various fields:

- Myanmar’s government is putting the emphasis on the development aspect of Rakhine state, with respect to the SDGs. An agreement was signed between Myanmar and UNDP.
- The government, in collaboration with NGOs, is organizing trainings and capacity building.

¹ Resolution was adopted with 33 votes in favour, during the 27th Special Session of the HRC, 5 December 2017

In favour (33)	Against (3)	Abstained (9)
Albania, Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Egypt, El Salvador, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Indonesia, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America	Burundi, China, Philippines	Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, India, Japan, Kenya, Mongolia, South Africa, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)]

- The government is delivering humanitarian assistance to the populations in the Rakhine state.
- Myanmar is working in good faith with Bangladesh for the repatriation of Rohingya in Rakhine state. Hundreds of persons already returned.
- Myanmar is willing to address the issue of accountability. Investigations and prosecutions are being conducted for human rights violations.
- In 2019, a national plan for resettlement of IDPs have been adopted by the government.

Myanmar's challenges are further exacerbated by the **Covid-19 pandemic**. The response was based on the principle of leaving no-one behind.

Interactive dialogue

30 states took the floor during the Interactive Dialogue.

Bangladesh's role in the Rohingya crisis, welcoming a high number of Rohingya refugees within its borders, was widely commended by a vast majority of states.

It was shared by all that the priority was now the **safe and dignified return of the Rohingya populations** in the Rakhine state.

Humanitarian access in the Rakhine state must be ensured.

The decisions and recommendations from the **International Court of Justice** and the **International Criminal Court** must be respected and implemented by the government of Myanmar (Pakistan on behalf of OIC, Saudi Arabia, Japan, France, Bangladesh, Jordan, New-Zealand, Turkey, Maldives, United Kingdom, Netherlands, European Union, Australia, Senegal).

It is urgent to **restore the citizenship rights of the Rohingya people** (Malaysia, Pakistan, Armenia, New-Zealand, Maldives).

Many delegations were concerned about the **media and internet restrictions** (European Union, Australia, Ireland, Maldives, Netherlands)

The government of Myanmar must implement the **recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State** (Denmark on behalf of the Nordic countries, Malaysia, Bangladesh, United Kingdom).

States that took the floor during the Interactive Dialogue (30 states):

Human Rights Council members: Denmark (on behalf of Nordic Countries), Pakistan (*on behalf of the OIC*), Libya, Venezuela, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Australia, Senegal, Armenia, Netherlands, Japan.

Observer states: European Union, Tunisia, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Myanmar, China, France, Jordan, Turkey, Maldives, Ireland, , New-Zealand, United Arab Emirates, , Democratic People's Republic of Lao, , Saudi Arabia, , Malaysia.

Civil Society Organizations that took the floor during the Interactive Dialogue (5 NGOs):

Asian Forum, Save the children international, International Organization for Elimination of all Forms of Discriminations, International Lawyers, Aid Organization