



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

مركز جنيف لحقوق الإنسان والحوار العالمي

CENTRE DE GENÈVE POUR LA PROMOTION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME ET LE DIALOGUE GLOBAL

In special Consultative Status with the Economic
and Social Council of the United Nations

Bénéficiant du Statut consultatif spécial auprès
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Special Session
On the
Situation of Human Rights of the Minority Rohingya Muslim population and Other
Minorities in Rakhine State
5 December 2017

Statement by
Mr. Blerim Mustafa

Junior Project and Communications Officer

Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue

Mr President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to express the Geneva Centre's deep gratitude to the member States of the Human Rights Council to which the Geneva Centre sent an appeal on 11 and 12 October 2017 to call for a special session of the Council. We were moved by the enormous amount of support that our proposal brought forward.

The convening of this Special Session is a telling statement of this Council that the oppressed Rohingya and other minorities in Rakhine State are not alone, that their community cannot be erased from Burmese soil or their identity stamped out and that refugees here as elsewhere have a right of return when it will be safe for them to do so.

As HH Pope Francis said "*Let us continue to work actively for the recognition of their rights. Let us not close our hearts or look the other way*".

We call for an urgent supply of humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State.

Finally we call for accountability of the perpetrators of the heinous crimes that have been committed and for reparations to the victims. Then and only then will come the time for forgiveness.

Thank you