



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

September 13, 2022

Jewish Rohingya Justice Network
1001 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20036

Dear members of the Jewish Rohingya Justice Network:

Thank you for your August 17 letter to Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken expressing concerns about the Burmese military's crimes, including ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity, and genocide against Rohingya. The Administration has been steadfast in its support for the people of Burma, including Rohingya and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups, who are particularly vulnerable to human rights abuses and violations given these identities.

In Secretary Blinken's remarks announcing that members of the Burmese military committed genocide and crimes against humanity against Rohingya, he noted that the determination is one step in recognizing and responding to the Rohingya crisis. As many of you may know, just weeks after the Secretary's announcement, I visited Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh to highlight the United States' unwavering support for Rohingya.

The United States is clear-eyed about the fact that the current repressive regime is comprised of many of the same individuals responsible for atrocities committed against Rohingya, as well as abuses and violations committed against members of other ethnic and religious minority groups. Since the February 2021 military coup d'état, the Burmese military has continued to commit horrific and brutal violence across the country, in some cases using tactics similar to those it used against Rohingya.

Our ongoing and regular engagement with representatives of the Rohingya community informs our response and ensures our efforts to pursue justice and promote accountability for previous and ongoing abuses and violations and is consistent with the Rohingya community's calls and goals. This engagement is also critical to understand what the community needs and wants so that we can best structure our policy and assistance to support Rohingya.

We continue to support the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, the case under the Genocide Convention that The Gambia has brought against Burma before the International Court of Justice, and credible courts around the world that have jurisdiction in cases involving the Burmese military's atrocity crimes. The United States also supports measures by the UN Security Council to promote justice and accountability for the military's actions in line with its mandate to promote international peace and security. In this vein, the United States would support a UN Security Council referral of the situation in Burma to the International Criminal Court.

Like you, we are committed to helping ensure Rohingya can live purposeful lives, pursue educational and livelihood opportunities, and have a voice in shaping their own future. We regularly engage with the Government of Bangladesh and other Rohingya-hosting governments in the region, both in solidarity and to convey the importance of meeting Rohingya refugees' needs and protecting and promoting their human rights, wherever they are located. The United States remains the leading single donor to the Rohingya humanitarian response.

We will continue to support measures that advance justice and promote accountability for the military's atrocities and abuses.

Thank you for the work the Jewish Rohingya Justice Network does to shine a light on the plight of Rohingya. The United States will continue to support the people of Burma, including Rohingya, in their pursuit of freedom and inclusive democracy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RH', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rashad Hussain
Ambassador at Large