

After violence breaks out — essential measures for resolution, protection and security

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Good Morning Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman,

It's a great privilege to be here and I am grateful for OHCHR's invitation to address this forum .

I'd like to say that we do support the draft recommendations on addressing ongoing violence. Additionally we do want to recommend a few more points such as,

No1. State must ensure the protection and prevention of minority rights in its constitution.

No2. State should take urgent action to pass new legislation to protect rights of minorities after the violence broke out.

No3. State should pass new legislation to stop and take action against hate speeches and hate crimes.

I represent a minority called Rohingya which is not recognized by the state as a national ethnic group of Myanmar. Even though Rohingya are known as one of the most persecuted communities in the world by the UN I am not here today only to complain against my government for persecution.

I am here today to find a constructive and fair solution for all. I am here today in the search for peace for our vulnerable community and for peaceful co-existence of all communities in Myanmar.

I am here today to testify that we just want our basic rights to be respected and our dignity as human beings to be recognized.

We live in Rakhine state, western part of Myanmar even before it became a part of Myanmar. In fact the persecution of Rohingya started when the 1982 citizenship Act was deliberately enacted, to take away the full citizenship we were enjoying before.

Consequently all our basic rights were taken away through many discriminatory rules and regulations particularly targeting our community especially in the 1990s. At the end, the violence occurred in Rakhine state since 2012 between Rohingya and Rakhine community. According to government, more than 200 were killed and about 150,000 people are still displaced. Many were arrested and tortured. In reality actual figures are much higher. Currently Rohingya are denied of the right to use their name which is indeed a denial of our existence as a minority. We see this as a result of mis-ruling of the past dictatorship.

After two and half years, the violence escalated to other parts of the country and appeared to be provoked by an anti-muslim movement headed by some extremist groups including Buddhist monks. We strongly urge the government to take effective measures to stop the violence and incitement to violence, to find a durable and peaceful solution to ensure our protection and bring back security for all.

We urge the government of Myanmar ;

- to recognize self-identification of its minority communities.
- to recognize the violence and conflict in Rakhine State.
- To provide food and shelter /health care and education to all victims.
- To organize the safe and economically viable return of all IDPs to their original place
- To provide enduring security and ensure the responsibility to protect their populations from violence and atrocity crimes irrespective of national, ethnic, religious, linguistic or other identity,
- To promote and enforce the rule of law rule without discriminations and to ensure equality before the law.
- To ensure judicial system is fair and public to reduce existing arbitrary detention and
- to release all victims of arbitrary detention
- to end extortion by the local authorities
- To end Impunity at all levels
- To end hate speech
- To abolish all unnecessary restriction/ such as restriction on movement, marriage , birth rate , and economic and other restriction on the livelihood of Rohingya
- To Provide birth certificate to all the Rohingya children
- Finally,
- To restore the full citizenship rights and all civil and political rights of Rohingya

We encourage Non- State actors ;

As such all parties in the conflict , community, religious leader and civil society groups to stop using violence, reduce tension, and to end hatred, and discriminations and promote interactive dialogue and a mediation among communities and with government.

We encourage the Media to end bias enhance impartiality to reduce ongoing violence against minorities or conflict.

Dear Chairman ,

since most of the conflicts and violences in the world nowadays has negative impact on minorities , International community should take prompt responsibility and all means necessary to protect minorities of the world. We encourage field visit of Special Rapporteur on Minorities and Special Advisor to SG on Prevention of Genocide.

We call all governments not to consider minorities as a threat and promote diversity as a strength and a richness. because we are loyal to our land , we are loyal to our country and we are loyal to the government. Thats why we are asking equal treatment , protection and freedom from the government.

We encourage the government to acknowledge that Human Rights is for all to end long-standing discrimination. Lastly I call on the governments to consider minorities as children of the same family , consider them crying for love from their parents because we believe that this can only be ensured with the genuine political will and full commitment to their obligation toward their people.

Thank you for your attention.