



4 September 2017

H.E. Mr. António Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York

Excellency,

We, the undersigned, a group of professors at Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, have the pleasure of writing to draw your kind attention to the plight of the Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar. We are sure that your Excellency is fully aware of the on-going atrocities committed against the Rohingya people, and we appreciate the United Nations' concern with this unfolding tragic situation, including your recent personal pronouncements.

What is happening to the Rohingya Muslims, whether instigated by ethnic prejudices on the part of the Buddhist majority population in Myanmar or the 'clearance operations' by the country's military and security forces, is nothing short of organized ethnic cleansing and a crime against humanity. Numerous reports in recent days of the army's operations against the Rohingya community, mostly residents of poor villages in the vicinity of Bangladesh, have included systematic burning of villages, indiscriminate killings of men, women and children, raping of women, and arbitrary arrests. As estimated by the United Nations sources, almost 80,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled their homes in Rakhine State. Thousands have sought refuge in the neighboring Bangladesh, and thousands more stranded without any access to shelter, food and basic needs in the no-man's land along the border areas. Just a few days ago, the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar expressed grave concern on "the worsening cycle of violence" and called that this "must be broken urgently."

The tragic situation of the Rohingya community, especially those subjected to organized persecution as a result of the current army operations, calls for urgent, forceful action by the international community, first and foremost by the United Nations. The urgent need for the provision of humanitarian assistance to the persecuted, displaced population, can hardly be overemphasized. Moreover, the unjustifiable official indifference of the Myanmar Government to this unbelievable unfolding human tragedy also needs to be addressed, and as a matter of utmost urgency. The Government should be called on put an effective end to the army's



systematic clearance operations, provide security to the Rohingya community in their areas, restore and secure the individual and community rights of the Rohingya Muslims, including with respect to education, marriage, religious freedom, and freedom of movement. The Government of Myanmar also needs to undertake a program of national reconciliation towards effective integration of the Rohingya minority in the larger Myanmar society and heal the wounds of chronic ethnic hostilities, which can also be assisted by the international community and the United Nations system.

Dear Secretary-General,

In writing this letter, we remain hopeful and confident that your prestigious office and personal position and weight can be brought to bear on a tragic human situation and lend a helping hand towards ameliorating the unspeakable plight and suffering of the vulnerable Muslim community in Myanmar. Expeditious active measures on your part to engage with the Government of Myanmar will certainly help convey to them the serious concerns of the international community over their unacceptable policies and conduct. They need to be reminded, as forcefully as possible, of their duties under the UN Charter as well as under other binding international human rights instruments and international humanitarian law to put an end to the on-going persecution of the Rohingya community. And as a matter of urgency and priority, they must also lift all restrictions on external humanitarian aid destined to assist the currently displaced population.

On behalf of the academic community in Iran, we seek your valuable assistance in raising the voices of concern over the horrors of ethnic persecution and cleansing and bloody violence against the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar. There is still time to make a difference, and for this, we count on you, Mr. Secretary-General.

Yours Sincerely,

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4	Dr. Abbas Akbarzadeh Materials Science Engineering Dept.	52	Dr. Ali Movaghar Computer Engineering Dept.



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