

OPEN LETTER

From 39 CSO

Following the joint statement Bangladesh – France of September, 11th, 2023

Info Birmanie and 38 civil society organisations welcome France's announced support for Gambia's application to the ICJ-International Court of Justice against the Myanmar state, for breach of the UN Genocide Convention in the context of the repression of the Rohingya minority. This decision is the outcome of a long advocacy campaign by civil society to the French government and marks a necessary first step in the fight against impunity in Myanmar. We hope that France will show leadership on this issue, by encouraging its partners to take a similar approach.

We welcome the announcement of an additional contribution of one million euros, through the WFP-World Food Programme, for the Rohingya refugees in camps in Bangladesh. A start to fill the 125 millions dollars asked by the WFP to end the food rations cuts. The successive cuts in food aid to these populations, who find themselves in a position where they are unable to meet their own needs, are unacceptable. Food insecurity comes on top of the daily violence suffered by the refugees, particularly at the hands of criminal groups such as the ARSA-Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army and the RSO-Rohingya Solidarity Organisation, whose clashes have resulted in numerous victims in the camps and led to a wave of assassinations targeting Rohingya civil society leaders.

France, the European Union and the international community should call for stable and consistent humanitarian assistance but also security support to be included in the joint United Nations response plan.

Regarding the potential voluntary repatriation of the Rohingya and "the need to create conditions inside Myanmar that allow for their voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return": we recall that such conditions cannot be met at present in view of the failed coup by the army and the appalling war it is waging against its population. The necessary conditions cannot be met without the restitution of the rights of all Myanmar citizens, including the Rohingya. 1982 Citizenship law needs to be repealed. All laws and policies used as part of the genocide of the Rohingya need to be repealed and replaced with laws guaranteeing rights. Rohingya need to be able to return to their original villages and be fully compensated for loss of property, costs of rebuilding, loss of income and for the trauma they have been put through.

Agissons pour la paix et la démocratie en Birmanie.

#AvecToiMyanmar | 07 62 80 61 33 | infobirmanie@gmail.com



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The provisional measures for the protection of the Rohingya in Myanmar, ordered by the ICJ in January 2020, have still not been applied. This is a situation that has not been addressed by the UN Security Council. France should convene a Council meeting on the subject and support the NUG's acceptance of the ICC-International Criminal Court's authority and its ratification of the Rome Statute on behalf of the State of Myanmar.

On an international scale, the lack of leadership and coordination, reflected in the disparate sanctions adopted by each state individually, is undermining efforts to support the struggle for justice and democracy of the people of Myanmar as a whole. The acts of support announced by the French government today, like other governments before, are welcome and eagerly awaited. However, they must not remain national acts, but form part of a new, concerted and collective effort to combat impunity and bring justice to Myanmar.

The signatories

ACDD - Action committee for Democracy Development
Ah Nah Podcast - Conversations with Myanmar
ALTSEAN-Burma
Association and Myanmar diaspora Group Finland
ASB - Association Suisse- Birmanie
Boston Free Burma
Burma Action Ireland
BHRN - Burma Human Rights Network
Burmese Canadian Network
Burma campaign UK
BROUK - Burmese Rohingya organisation UK
Chin Human Rights Organizations
Citizen of Burma Award-New Zealand
CRPH & NUG supporters Ireland
CRPH Funding Ireland
CRPH Support Group, Norway
Doh Atu- ensemble pour le Myanmar
Educational Initiatives Prague
FIDH - Fédération Internationale pour les Droits Humains
FLAG - Freedom and Labor Action Group
GMSR - Global Myanmar Spring Revolution
Human Rights Foundation of Monland
Info Birmanie
Initiatives for International Dialogue
IAMS - International Association, Myanmar-Switzerland
International Campaign for the Rohingya
KSC - Karen Swedish Community KSC
Myanmar Action Group Denmark
Myanmar Campaign Network
Netherlands-Myanmar Solidarity Platform
NL Solidarity Myanmar
NUG and CRPH Supporters Ireland
Padauk Finland-Myanmar
Rohingya Action Ireland
The European Rohingya Council
U.S. Campaign for Burma
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
US Campaign for Burma
With Myanmar UK

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