

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 90

Condemning ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya and calling for an end to the attacks in and an immediate restoration of humanitarian access to the state of Rakhine in Burma.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 7, 2017

Mr. CROWLEY (for himself and Mr. CHABOT) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Condemning ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya and calling for an end to the attacks in and an immediate restoration of humanitarian access to the state of Rakhine in Burma.

Whereas, on August 25, 2017, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army carried out attacks on Government positions in the state of Rakhine in Burma (“Rakhine State”);

Whereas in recent decades the Rohingya people have lost, with the support of the Burmese Government, a range of civil and political rights, including citizenship, and face barriers today such that they are mostly stateless peoples;

Whereas since the August 25 attacks, Burma’s military and security forces, as well as private mobs, have carried out

attacks resulting in over 600,000 Rohingya fleeing to Bangladesh;

Whereas Amnesty International described the attacks by stating that “Myanmar security forces are setting northern Rakhine State ablaze in a targeted campaign to push the Rohingya people out of Myanmar.”;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council has called for an end to the violence and attacks;

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights has said that the response by the military is “grossly disproportionate” and a “textbook example of ethnic cleansing”;

Whereas Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has said, “This violence must stop, this persecution must stop”;

Whereas under Burma’s military-drafted constitution, the country’s military and security services are not subject to civilian rule and only Burma’s Commander-in-Chief, Min Aung Hlaing, can command troops to cease attacks impacting civilians in Rakhine State;

Whereas Burma’s civilian Government, led by Aung San Suu Kyi, has not taken necessary steps to address the violence and should take further measures;

Whereas the international community had high hopes for Burma’s elected Government and expected that elected officials take action to prevent violence and secure rights;

Whereas the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State (“Rakhine Commission”) examined, beginning in 2016, the underlying tensions in Rakhine State and made a series of recommendations including a wide range of suggestions and policy changes dealing with humanitarian aid, citizenship, reconciliation, and peace;

Whereas the Rakhine Commission stated, “While Myanmar has every right to defend its own territory, a highly militarised response is unlikely to bring peace to the area. What is needed is a calibrated approach—one that combines political, developmental, security and human rights responses to ensure that violence does not escalate and inter-communal tensions are kept under control.”; and

Whereas the United States is providing an initial \$32,000,000 in humanitarian assistance to address the urgent needs of Rohingya fleeing violence from Rakhine State into Bangladesh, as well as the needs of internally displaced persons in Rakhine State and host communities in Bangladesh: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) condemns the attacks against civilians by
4 Burma’s security services and calls on Burma’s
5 Commander-in-Chief, Min Aung Hlaing, to imme-
6 diately end all attacks against civilians in the state
7 of Rakhine in Burma;

8 (2) expresses deepest appreciation to the Gov-
9 ernment of Bangladesh for providing refuge to those
10 fleeing violence and attacks;

11 (3) condemns the attacks by the Arakan
12 Rohingya Salvation Army, but warns that these at-
13 tacks do not justify the unrestrained response that
14 has resulted in severe human rights violations, mur-

1 derous ethnic cleansing, and atrocities against civil-
 2 ians;

3 (4) calls on Burma's Government, led by Aung
 4 San Suu Kyi, and the Burmese military and security
 5 forces to work constructively to implement the rec-
 6 ommendations of the Advisory Commission on
 7 Rakhine State, including those relating to justice,
 8 reconciliation, humanitarian aid, and citizenship;

9 (5) calls on Burma's Government and its mili-
 10 tary and security services to allow unimpeded hu-
 11 manitarian access to refugees and internally dis-
 12 placed persons;

13 (6) urges support and access for the United
 14 Nations Fact Finding Mission to Burma;

15 (7) calls on Burma's military and Government
 16 to allow refugees to voluntarily return to Burma
 17 without undue restriction and to change laws and
 18 policies that have contributed to insecurity in the
 19 state of Rakhine; and

20 (8) calls on the President to impose sanctions
 21 on those responsible for human rights abuses, in-
 22 cluding members of Burma's military and security
 23 services.

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