



MUSLIMS AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF ISLAMIC COUNCILS INC.



The peak body for Australian Muslims representing State & Territory Islamic Councils and Societies
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PRESIDENT: Dr Rateb Jneid 0427 003 000

The Hon. Julie Bishop , MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra, A.C.T. 2600

7 September 2017

Dear Foreign Minister,

Australia has never shied away from championing the cause of human rights around the world, and has directly intervened on numerous occasions to alleviate the suffering of minorities subjected to violence, discrimination, and in some cases genocide and ethnic cleansing. The plight of the Rohingya minority of Myanmar calls for immediate and concerted effort by the world community to bring an end to the crimes being systematically perpetrated by the Myanmar regime and its military forces.

As Australians and as the national peak body for Muslims, we are deeply concerned and horrified by the mass murder of innocent Rohingya children, women, and men, and by the destruction of whole villages under an apparent policy of ethnic cleansing which has displaced and made homeless tens of thousands of Rohingya in the past weeks. These events are but the latest in the tragic history of the Rohingya minority of Myanmar who have endured apartheid level discrimination and persecution for decades.

As our Foreign Minister, we urge you and your government to not only unequivocally condemn what is occurring in Myanmar but to also take concrete steps to end the suffering of the Rohingya people.

We ask the government to demonstrate true moral leadership and the courage of its convictions to use whatever means at its disposal to pressure the Myanmar authorities to bring these crimes and state-sponsored persecution to an end.

We will support all initiatives you and the government will take and we are sure that all Australians will do the same when you act to redress these grave injustices.

The traumatised Rohingya men, women and children, who are being targeted just for being Muslim, need our support and the support of governments around the world.

We would appreciate a meeting with yourself to discuss the concerns of the Australian Muslim community in relation to the plight of the Rohingya. We would be happy for this meeting to be held at your earliest convenience.

Yours Sincerely

Dr Rateb Jneid
President - AFIC.

Hand in hand for a brighter Australia.