

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1710

Calling on the military regime in Burma, the State Peace and Development Council, to immediately recognize the Rohingya people as full and equal citizens of Burma, lift all restrictions on movement, marriage, and access to education for the Rohingya people, and end its campaign of religious and ethnic persecution amounting to crimes against humanity throughout Burma.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2010

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. PITTS, and Mr. MCGOVERN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Calling on the military regime in Burma, the State Peace and Development Council, to immediately recognize the Rohingya people as full and equal citizens of Burma, lift all restrictions on movement, marriage, and access to education for the Rohingya people, and end its campaign of religious and ethnic persecution amounting to crimes against humanity throughout Burma.

Whereas the military regime in Burma, the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), appears to be perpetrating crimes against humanity and war crimes against ethnic nationalities, particularly the Karen, Karenni and Shan in eastern Burma, including the apparent widespread and

systematic use of rape as a weapon of war, forced labor, the use of human minesweepers, the destruction of over 3,500 villages since 1996, and murder;

Whereas National League for Democracy (NLD) leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner Daw Aung San Suu Kyi remains under house arrest and has been excluded from the political process;

Whereas over 2,100 political prisoners remain in jail, subjected to severe torture, dire conditions, and denial of medical treatment;

Whereas the SPDC continues to forcibly recruit child soldiers;

Whereas the SPDC continues its campaign of ethnic and religious persecution against Christians, particularly among the Chin and Kachin peoples;

Whereas the Rohingya people, despite having lived in northern Arakan State for centuries, are denied citizenship, treated as temporary residents, subjected to severe restrictions on movement, marriage and access to education, and suffer grave violations of human rights, including forced labor, extortion, exploitation, discrimination, abuse, rape, and religious persecution;

Whereas the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Burma has concluded that these and other violations may amount to crimes against humanity, and has recommended the establishment of a United Nations commission of inquiry to investigate these crimes;

Whereas the Governments of the United States, United Kingdom, France, Canada, Australia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Netherlands, and New Zealand have ex-

pressed support for the United Nations Special Rapporteur's recommendations;

Whereas approximately 1 million Rohingya out of a total population of 3 million have fled Burma and are living in exile in Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Pakistan, and other countries;

Whereas an estimated 29,700 unregistered Rohingya in makeshift camps are in need of assistance;

Whereas Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh have been facing severe pressure to return to Burma, and more than 1,000 have been arrested, pushed back across the border, or jailed in Bangladesh since mid-2009;

Whereas at least five Rohingya forced back into Burma from Bangladesh were arrested by the NaSaKa, the Burmese Government's border security force, and are currently in Buthidaung jail, sentenced on August, 20, 2009, to five years imprisonment;

Whereas U Kyaw Min, a Rohingya Member of Parliament elected in 1990, who was sentenced to 47 years imprisonment for political reasons and immigration charges, was transferred from Insein to Mingyan jail in 2007 and his wife, two daughters, and one son have been sentenced to 12 years imprisonment and are currently detained in Insein Prison;

Whereas at least 1,000 Rohingya are in immigration detention camps in Saudi Arabia, some of whom have been detained for more than two years;

Whereas in 2009, local Thai civil defense organizations forced hundreds of Rohingya out to sea on boats without engines and with only a ten-day supply of food and water;

Whereas 52 Rohingya still remain in indefinite detention in a Bangkok Immigration Detention Centre, while two have already died in detention in Thailand; and

Whereas Medecins sans Frontieres has described the Rohingya as one of the ten people groups in the world most at risk of extinction: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) calls on the SPDC to recognize the
3 Rohingya people as full and equal citizens of Burma
4 and to lift all restrictions on movement, marriage,
5 and access to education;

6 (2) calls on the United States Department of
7 State to continuously raise the question of the status
8 of the Rohingya people in its dialogue with the
9 SPDC;

10 (3) calls on the Government of Bangladesh to
11 desist from forcing unregistered Rohingya to return
12 to Burma and to seek a durable solution for the
13 Rohingya people;

14 (4) calls on the Government of Bangladesh, in
15 cooperation with the United Nations High Commis-
16 sioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other inter-
17 national agencies, to address the dire humanitarian
18 conditions and food insecurity in the makeshift
19 camps housing an estimated 32,000 unregistered
20 Rohingya, especially during the monsoon;

1 (5) calls on the Government of Thailand to
2 allow UNHCR access to detained Rohingya rescued
3 at sea and to allow refugees status determinations;

4 (6) calls on the Government of Thailand to pro-
5 vide Rohingya refugees with adequate protection;

6 (7) calls on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to
7 allow Rohingya access to education and livelihoods;

8 (8) calls on the United States Government to
9 provide increased humanitarian assistance in north-
10 ern Arakan State;

11 (9) calls on the United States Government to
12 provide continued support for education for
13 Rohingya refugees outside Burma;

14 (10) calls on the United States Government to
15 consistently raise the plight of the Rohingya with
16 the Governments of Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Ma-
17 laysia, Thailand, and other members of the Associa-
18 tion of South-East Asian Nations;

19 (11) calls on the United States Government to
20 raise the plight of the Rohingya within the United
21 Nations at every opportunity;

22 (12) calls on the United States Government to
23 put consistent pressure on the SPDC to release all
24 political prisoners, including Rohingya Member of
25 Parliament U Kyaw Min and his family;

1 (13) calls on the United States Government to
2 proactively support the recommendation of the
3 United Nations Special Rapporteur for Human
4 Rights in Burma for the establishment of a commis-
5 sion of inquiry to investigate crimes against human-
6 ity and war crimes in Burma, including the viola-
7 tions perpetrated against the Rohingya people; and

8 (14) calls on the United States Government to
9 continue to engage with the Government of Ban-
10 gladesh in the economic development of the Cox's
11 Bazar region in which the majority of the Rohingya
12 refugee population lives.

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