



## **General Assembly: The Rohingya People and the Situation in Myanmar**

Hello, My name is Ariane Shahbazi and I am going to be your Vice-Chair at Missions 35th annual MUN conference. I am a sophomore at Mission Viejo High School and have been in MUN for 2 years and am very excited to do it for another. Outside of MUN I run cross country and track. When I'm not at school I'll either be at the beach or hanging out with friends. I look forward to being your vice chair at the Mission conference this year! If you have any questions please email me at: [mvhsmunlegal@gmail.com](mailto:mvhsmunlegal@gmail.com)

### **I. Background:**

The Rohingya are an ethnic group who are the majority of Muslim that have lived for centuries in the Buddhist Myanmar. Although they are the majority of Muslims they are a minority group within the country. Currently, there are about 1.1 million Rohingya who live in the Southeast Asian country. The Rohingya speak Rohingya or Ruaingga, a language that is distinct to others spoken in Rakhine State and throughout Myanmar. They are not considered one of the country's 135 official ethnic groups and have been denied citizenship in Myanmar since 1982, which has effectively rendered them stateless. Nearly all of the Rohingya in Myanmar live in the western coastal state of Rakhine and are not allowed to leave without government permission. It is one the poorest states in the country with ghetto-like camps and a lack of basic services and opportunities. Due to ongoing violence and persecution, hundreds of thousands of Rohingya have fled to neighbouring countries either by land or boat over the course of many decades. The first and most deadly incident began in June 2012 when rioting and clashes between Rakhine Buddhists and Muslims, largely thought to be Rohingya Muslims, left 200 dead and displaced thousands. It was the rape and murder of a young Buddhist woman which sparked off that deadly chain of events.

### **II. United Nations Involvement:**



The UN Security Council has called on Myanmar to allow hundreds of thousands of Muslim Rohingya driven from their homes to return. In a unanimous statement backed by China, the council strongly condemned the violence that has forced more than 600,000 Rohingya to flee across the border to Bangladesh. The council showed “grave concern” over human rights violations, “including by the Myanmar security forces” against the Rohingya such as killing, sexual violence and burning of homes and property. It called on the government “to ensure no further excessive use of military force in Rakhine state, to restore civilian administration and apply the rule of law.” The statement included most of the demands contained in a draft resolution presented last month by Britain and France, but that measure ran into strong opposition from China, a supporter of Myanmar’s former ruling junta. China had indicated it was willing to resort to its veto power to block a resolution, but Beijing finally agreed to a statement during negotiations.

### **III. Possible Solutions:**

Delegates, in this committee, you will have to address the situation of the Rohingya crisis and what is the best course of action to help these people. Give solutions such as helping build up the infrastructure and the economy within the region or discussing the pathway to making other countries and people of the international community to acknowledge this issue and give ideas for how to do that. The solution section is a vital part of the paper and should be the longest section. Please create comprehensive, creative solutions to allow for a great day of committee.

With the ongoing problem in Myanmar over its handling of Rohingya crisis, India’s representative to the UN in Geneva, Rajiv K Chander, stated that only long-term solution to the situation would be appropriate. These would be in the Rakhine state for socio-economic and infrastructure development. The Indian envoy’s comments came a day after the Central government told the Supreme Court that the “illegal” influx of Rohingyas and their continued stay in India was “seriously harming the national security of the country”. India recently agreed with Myanmar to provide financial and technical assistance to identify projects to take care of in Rakhine especially those agreements for infrastructure and socio-economic projects. The Indian



Ambassador also said that India extended the humanitarian release to Bangladesh government to support it in meeting refugees' needs. With the country facing allegations of ethnic cleansing, Myanmar leader Aung San Suu said her country does not fear international scrutiny.

#### **IV. Country Bloc Positions:**

**Western:** The western bloc firmly believes that a further investigation should occur in regards to the treatment of the Rohingya people, but they have stated that they do not believe that this is a case of genocide.

**Asian:** They believe that the Rohingya people do not deserve citizenship, and as a result do not deserve the same rights as other citizens. Myanmar is a hotspot for this issue, and many other Asian countries believe similarly to said country.

**African:** This bloc in general tends to side with the rights of the Rohingya people, and specifically South Africa has protested against the violence towards these peoples.

**Middle Eastern:** This bloc has similar views as the African bloc and believes that we need to protect the rights of the Rohingya people.

**Latin:** Most of the countries within this bloc are relatively unaffected by the Rohingya people, however they tend to in general side with the Western bloc and their opinions.

#### **V. Guiding Questions:**

1. Where will the Rohingya go?
2. Are foreign businesses in Myanmar facing growing reputational risks as a result of the government's apparent lack of restraint?
3. Who will help Myanmar's Rohingya?