



Ms Federica Mogherini
High Representative of the European Union
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Vice-President of the European Commission

Brussels, 23 February 2018

Dear High Representative / Vice President Mogherini,

We are writing to you ahead of the Foreign Affairs Council meeting on 26-27 February, which will take place exactly 6 months after the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar began.

Since 25th August 2017, around 700,000 Rohingya refugees have crossed the border from Myanmar to seek shelter in Bangladesh. The UN says the Rohingya's situation is the "world's fastest growing refugee crisis" and describes the Myanmar military offensive as a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing" bearing "the hallmarks of a genocide".

According to recent research by Amnesty International¹, the Myanmar security forces' devastating campaign against the Rohingya population is far from over, and there are ongoing violations that have forced hundreds more people to flee in recent weeks. This means that the agreed return of the refugees back to Myanmar is premature.

Therefore, we urge you to take additional measures as called for by the European Parliament in its resolution on the situation of the Rohingya people of 14 December 2017. In particular, we believe it is of the utmost importance that the EU Foreign Affairs Ministers adopt the following measures in order to exert significant pressure on Myanmar's military to stop the violence:

- Condemn the ongoing violence, grave human rights abuses and loss of lives, livelihoods and shelter in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan States;
- Explicitly acknowledge that most likely crimes against humanity have been committed by the Myanmar security forces;
- Impose travel bans and financial sanctions against those responsible for perpetrating criminal acts in Myanmar, including military commanders and senior officers, as requested in the Parliament's resolutions of September and December 2017;
- Suspend military assistance programmes, extend the scope of the existing arms embargo against Myanmar, and support the establishment of a UN-mandated global arms embargo;
- Insist on immediate, unfettered and sustained humanitarian access to all people in need in Rakhine State and on access for the UN Fact-Finding Mission to carry out its mandate of conducting investigations into human rights violations;

¹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa16/7835/2018/en/>



- Press the Myanmar Government to refer jurisdiction over grave human rights crimes committed since August 25, 2017 to the International Criminal Court, as a court of last resort under Art. 12(3) (acceptance of (ad hoc) jurisdiction under the Rome Statute) and urge the government to ratify the Rome Statute; explore all avenues for justice and accountability;
- Insist that if any returns of Rohingya refugees to Myanmar do take place these are voluntary, dignified, safe and informed, with full UNHCR and OHCHR oversight of the process and fully compliant with international law;
- Support the full implementation of the Rakhine Advisory Commission report;
- Increase financial and material assistance to support durable solutions for refugees, making sure that the assistance is conditioned on non-discrimination, non-segregation and equality;
- Pursue an EU long-term strategy in supporting the self-reliance and improved protection of Rohingya in Bangladesh, e.g. by ending limitations on their freedom of movement, improving access to livelihoods opportunities and job markets, ensuring children's access to education; and providing for civil documentation with a view to securing status;
- Call for the freedom of speech to be respected, for an immediate release of the Reuters journalists and urge Myanmar to bring its legislation on freedom of expression in line with international human rights law and standards.

We hope to be able to count on your support in this crucial matter.

Yours sincerely,

Wajid KHAN MEP

Barbara LOCHBIHLER MEP

Pier Antonio PANZERI MEP

Soraya POST MEP

Jean LAMBERT MEP

David MARTIN MEP

Amjad BASHIR MEP

Jo LEINEN MEP

Richard CORBETT MEP

Urmas PAET MEP

Sajjad KARIM MEP

James NICHOLSON MEP

Marc TARABELLA MEP



Alessia Maria MOSCA MEP

Liliana RORDIGUES MEP

Lucy ANDERSON MEP

Rory PALMER MEP

Margrete AUKEN MEP

Jude KIRTON-DARLING MEP

Jordi SOLÉ MEP

Linda MCAVAN MEP

Hilde VAUTMANS MEP

Alyn SMITH MEP

Baroness Nosheena MOBARIK MEP

Clare MOODY MEP

Bart STAES MEP

Mark DEMESMAEKER MEP

Barbara SPINELLI MEP

Judith SARGENTINI MEP

José Inácio FARIA MEP

Josef WEIDENHOLZER MEP

Theresa GRIFFIN MEP

Mary HONEYBALL MEP

Maria ARENA MEP

Lola SÁNCHEZ CALDENTEY MEP

Ana GOMES MEP

Dietmar KÖSTER MEP

Margot PARKER MEP

Arndt KOHN MEP

Goffredo BETTINI MEP

Marie-Christine VERGIAT MEP

Ernest URTASUN MEP

Younous OMARJEE MEP



Sirpa PIETIKÄINEN MEP

Carlos ZORRINHO MEP

Matt CARTHY MEP

Martina ANDERSON MEP

Liadh NÍ RIADA MEP

Lynn BOYLAN MEP

Bodil VALERO MEP

Seb DANCE MEP

Tokia SAÏFI MEP

Neena GILL CBE MEP

John HOWARTH MEP

Beatriz BECERRA BASTERRECHEA MEP

Marita ULVSKOG MEP

Jytte GUTELAND MEP

Anna HEDH MEP

Olle LUDVIGSSON MEP

Helmut SCHOLZ MEP

Annie SCHREIJER-PIERIK MEP

Julie WARD MEP