



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

137th IPU Assembly

St. Petersburg, Russian Federation
14–18 October 2017



Assembly
Item 2

A/137/2-P.7
6 October 2017

Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda

Request for the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the 137th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegation of Bangladesh

On 5 October 2017, the President received from the Deputy Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament, a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 137th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"Stop atrocities and forced displacement of Rohingyas and ensure their return to their homeland in the Rakhine State of Myanmar immediately and unconditionally".

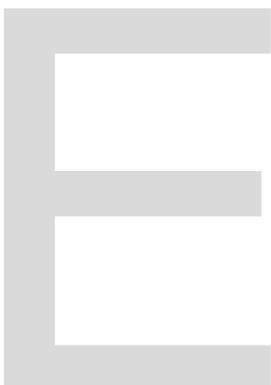
Delegates to the 137th Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request ([Annex I](#)), as well as an explanatory memorandum ([Annex II](#)) and a draft resolution ([Annex III](#)) in support thereof.

The 137th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Bangladesh on Sunday, 15 October 2017.

Under the terms of Assembly Rule 11.1, any Member of the IPU may request the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda. Such a request must be accompanied by a brief explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution which clearly define the scope of the subject covered by the request. The IPU Secretariat shall communicate the request and any such documents immediately to all Members.

Furthermore, Assembly Rule 11.2 stipulates that:

- (a) A request for the inclusion of an emergency item must relate to a recent major situation of international concern on which urgent action by the international community is required and on which it is appropriate for the IPU to express its opinion and mobilize a parliamentary response. Such a request must receive a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in order to be accepted;
- (b) The Assembly may place only one emergency item on its agenda. Should several requests obtain the requisite majority, the one having received the largest number of positive votes shall be accepted;
- (c) The authors of two or more requests for the inclusion of an emergency item may combine their proposals to present a joint one, provided that each of the original proposals relates to the same subject;
- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the request and title of the subject adopted by the Assembly.



#IPU137

**COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER
OF THE BANGLADESH PARLIAMENT**

Dhaka, 5 October 2017

Dear Mr. President,

In accordance with the provisions of Article 14.2 of the Statutes of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Rule 11.1 of the Rules of the Assembly, the Bangladesh Parliament would like to request the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the 137th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to be held in St. Petersburg (Russian Federation) from 14 to 18 October 2017:

"Stop atrocities and forced displacement of Rohingyas and ensure their return to their homeland in the Rakhine State of Myanmar immediately and unconditionally".

Please find attached a brief explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution in support of this request.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Fazle RABBI, MP
Deputy Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament
and Leader of the Bangladesh Delegation

**STOP ATROCITIES AND FORCED DISPLACEMENT OF ROHINGYAS
AND ENSURE THEIR RETURN TO THEIR HOMELAND IN THE RAKHINE STATE
OF MYANMAR IMMEDIATELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY**

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of Bangladesh

Since 25 August 2017, hundreds of thousands of people from the Muslim population of the Rakhine State of Myanmar, who called themselves "Rohingya", have fled Myanmar to escape the mass atrocities perpetrated against them by the Myanmar security forces and extremist ethnic Rakhine civilian vigilantes. Around half of the estimated 1.2 million Rohingya population has crossed the border into neighbouring Bangladesh since 25 August 2017, while tens of thousands remain internally displaced inside Myanmar, without access to vital humanitarian aid. Their grave suffering, particularly that of women and children, is unprecedented.

The Rohingyas have been subjected to discrimination and persecution for decades under successive Myanmar governments. They have been stripped of their basic rights and have been made stateless. Effectively denied citizenship under the discriminatory 1982 Citizenship Law, they are one of the largest stateless populations in the world. Rohingyas have been described as the most persecuted people on earth. Restrictions on movement and lack of access to livelihoods and basic health care have led to dire humanitarian conditions for Rohingyas in general and those displaced inside Myanmar by earlier waves of violence in 2012 and 2016 in particular. By forcibly driving out the Rohingyas from their ancestral homeland, Myanmar seeks to depopulate the Rakhine State of its Muslim population.

The military operation by Myanmar Forces in response to the alleged 25 August 2017 attacks has created a grave humanitarian catastrophe. Bangladesh is directly affected by the situation in the Rakhine State of Myanmar despite not being a party to it. This is not the first time that this minority group has been subjected to cataclysmic atrocities. They were terrorized and flushed out of their centuries of settled life in 1978, 1991-92, 2012 and 2016 successively. Over 509,000 Rohingyas have taken shelter in Bangladesh since 25 August 2017, around 60 per cent of whom are children. The recent influx has added to the pre-existing 33,000 registered refugees living in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) managed camps, the some 300,000 undocumented Myanmar nationals living outside the camps who entered Bangladesh in the last decade, and the 87,000 who sought shelter in Bangladesh after 9 October 2016. Bangladesh is now faced with a displaced population of over 900,000 persons. Despite space and resource constraints, Bangladesh is providing shelter, food and other emergency services to these displaced persons. Bangladesh's efforts have been recognized as an example of compassion and humanity.

Humanitarian organisations helping Rohingya Muslim refugees in Bangladesh say they need US\$ 434 million over the next six months to help up to 1.2 million people, many of them children, who need life-saving help. Mr. Robert Watkins, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh, said, "The Rohingya population in Cox's Bazar is highly vulnerable, many having experienced severe trauma, and are now living in extremely difficult conditions", referring to the Bangladeshi border district where most Rohingyas are living.

For a durable solution, the question of basic rights, particularly the citizenship issue of Rohingyas, needs to be addressed urgently. Myanmar needs to resolve the root cause of the issue by restoring "citizenship" of the Rohingyas and according them treatment equal to other citizens and ensuring equal civil and political rights.

There is no doubt that Rohingyas need to be resettled peacefully and unconditionally in their original place of residence in the Rakhine State with full citizenship and human rights. The international community must exert pressure on Myanmar to find a peaceful and sustainable solution for the Rohingyas. There is no doubt that the prolonged denial of basic rights has the potential to manifest itself in disturbing ways. About a million persecuted, disenfranchised stateless persons with unaddressed grievances are vulnerable to all types of radical ideas. The deep frustration and hopelessness of the Muslim population could create conditions that are ripe for radicalization which would destabilize the entire region.

Considering the foregoing, the delegation of the Bangladesh Parliament urges the Inter-Parliamentary Union to ensure that States take a stand against all discriminatory policies and activities that run counter to human rights and good relations between countries. Any such policies must be thwarted and not allowed to thrive so as to ensure the upholding of democratic principles globally.

**STOP ATROCITIES AND FORCED DISPLACEMENT OF ROHINGYAS
AND ENSURE THEIR RETURN TO THEIR HOMELAND IN THE RAKHINE STATE
OF MYANMAR IMMEDIATELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY**

Draft Resolution submitted by the delegation of BANGLADESH

The 137th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Recalling* the IPU Resolution adopted unanimously by the 117th Assembly (Geneva, 10 October 2007) on *The urgent need to immediately stop the widespread human rights violations and to restore the democratic rights of the people of Myanmar*, and the Resolution adopted unanimously by the 133rd IPU Assembly (Geneva, 21 October 2015) on *The role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, parliaments, parliamentarians, and international and regional organizations in providing necessary protection and urgent support to those who have become refugees through war, internal conflict and social circumstances, according to the principles of international humanitarian law and international conventions*,
- (2) *Profoundly distressed* by the continuing violence, forced displacement and serious violations of human rights experienced by ethnic Rohingyas in the Rakhine State of Myanmar,
- (3) *Particularly shocked* by the practice of "ethnic cleansing" in the Northern Rakhine State of Myanmar which is aimed at the displacement or destruction of ethnic or religious groups,
- (4) *Expressing concern* over the unprecedented exodus of Rohingyas to Bangladesh and its humanitarian and potential security consequences for Bangladesh and the region,
- (5) *Welcoming* Bangladesh's efforts to help the forcibly displaced Rohingyas by providing temporary refuge and appreciating support from the United Nations agencies and other international partners,
- (6) *Taking note* of the United Nations Secretary-General's comments and concern on "ethnic cleansing" which aims to annihilate Rohingyas from their homeland,
- (7) *Also taking note* of the verdict of the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal dated 22 September 2017,
- (8) *Deeply concerned* by the placing of landmines violating international norms along the border to prevent the Rohingyas from returning to Myanmar,
- (9) *Welcoming* the final report and recommendations of the Rakhine Advisory Commission led by Kofi Annan,
- (10) *Expressing* deep sorrow for the victims of the atrocities perpetrated by the Myanmar security forces and extremist ethnic Rakhine civilian vigilantes and *further expressing* profound sympathy to the Rohingyas,
 1. *Strongly condemns* all gross violations of human rights including loss of huge innocent lives in the Rakhine State of Myanmar and, particularly, the abhorrent practice of "ethnic cleansing", and calls on the Government of Myanmar to cease these violations immediately and ensure full respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of race or religion;
 2. *Expresses grave concern* over the recent atrocities perpetrated by security forces and their extremist civilian accomplices against the Rohingya minority, which constitute serious and blatant violation of international laws;
 3. *Appreciates* the efforts of the Government of Bangladesh to provide close to one million distressed Rohingyas with, inter alia, shelter, food, sanitation, water and medical attention.

4. *Also appreciates* all the States, UN agencies and other International organizations who have expressed solidarity and extended their support and assistance to the forcibly displaced Rohingyas;
5. *Invites* all Member Parliaments to help in securing basic rights of the Rohingyas, extend humanitarian support to the Rohingyas and join the efforts of Bangladesh and the international community towards sustainable return of Rohingyas to their homeland in the Rakhine State of Myanmar;
6. *Regrets* that the Parliament of Myanmar has yet to take any step to stop the violence and to put an end to the tragic situation of Rohingyas in the Rakhine State;
7. *Strongly stresses* that the Myanmar should eliminate the root causes, including the denial of citizenship based on the 1982 Citizenship Act which has led to statelessness and deprivation of the rights of the Rohingya Muslims, and to continued dispossession and discrimination against them;
8. *Calls on* the Government of Myanmar
 - (a) to stop the violence and the practice of ethnic cleansing in the Rakhine State immediately, unconditionally and forever,
 - (b) to ensure sustainable return of all forcibly displaced Rohingyas sheltered in Bangladesh to their homes in Myanmar within shortest possible time,
 - (c) to implement the recommendations of Kofi Annan Commission Report immediately, unconditionally and entirely;
9. *Requests* the Secretary General of the United Nations to send a Fact-Finding Mission to Myanmar urgently to conduct a thorough and independent investigation of alleged atrocities and gross violation of Human Rights in Rakhine State;
10. *Recommends strongly* on creation of "Safe Zones" inside Myanmar under UN supervision to protect all civilians irrespective of religion and ethnicity;
11. *Recommends* unfettered media and humanitarian access in the Northern Rakhine State;
12. *Calls upon* Myanmar Government to take measures against anti-Rohingya hate campaign in Myanmar as well as stop civilian – vigilantism by extremist Rakhines in the Rakhine State;
13. *Urges* all parliaments to encourage their respective governments to intensify diplomatic pressure on Myanmar at all levels to put an end to the tragic situation in Rakhine State of Myanmar which constitutes a grave threat to international peace and security;
14. *Resolves* to remain vigilant regarding further developments in Myanmar.