



Special Advisory Council for MYANMAR

8 Long Years of Gross Injustice: Remembering the Rohingya Genocide

24 August 2025

Eight years ago, on 25 August 2017, the Myanmar military launched a brutal campaign of genocidal violence against the Rohingya population in northern Rakhine State.

Thousands of Rohingya civilians were killed in a systematic campaign of arson, rape, torture and ethnic cleansing carried out by security forces. 750,000 people fled across the border into Bangladesh, joining those displaced by previous pogroms.

On the eve of Rohingya Genocide Remembrance Day, we honour the victims and survivors of these atrocities. We acknowledge the continuing suffering of Rohingya remaining in Rakhine and in Bangladesh and we confront the failure of the international community to deliver them justice.

“The architects and perpetrators of the Rohingya genocide—the Myanmar military—continue to act with total impunity,” said Marzuki Darusman of the Special Advisory Council for Myanmar (SAC-M). **“What was once the horrific experience of the Rohingya is now the experience of all Myanmar.”**

The Myanmar military junta has carried out a countrywide campaign of atrocities since its attempted coup in February 2021. Its scorched earth attacks have internally displaced more than 3.3 million people and its aid blockades have pushed communities in Rakhine State to the brink of starvation.

The outbreak of conflict between the junta and the Arakan Army (AA) has placed Rohingya communities in Rakhine at grave risk. Recently unearthed evidence of the massacre of some 600 Rohingya men, women and children in Buthidaung township in May 2024, allegedly by the AA, is just the latest in a mounting list of serious [allegations](#) that demand urgent international [investigation](#). The AA denies the allegations.

“We repeat our call on the Arakan Army, as the de facto authority, to facilitate the entry of international independent investigative teams into Rakhine State to investigate these alleged atrocities, and to fully cooperate with them,” said Yanghee Lee of SAC-M.



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At least 150,000 Rohingya have fled Rakhine State since the beginning of 2024. Most have joined the more than one million Rohingya confined to refugee camps in Bangladesh, where vital camp services are being slashed as recent aid cuts from the United States and other donors take effect.

Nevertheless, Rohingya communities have continued to campaign tirelessly for justice. And now, finally, it seems the international system is beginning to respond.

In July, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Belgium, Slovenia and Ireland were approved by the International Court of Justice to intervene in the genocide case against Myanmar. They join seven other countries already supporting the case.

This follows the issuance of arrest warrants by an Argentine court in February for 25 senior Myanmar officials, including Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, for their alleged roles in genocide and crimes against humanity committed against the Rohingya. Three months earlier, the ICC Prosecutor requested an arrest warrant for Min Aung Hlaing.

It is critical that this momentum is seized. For as long as justice is allowed to elude the Rohingya, devastating cycles of violence and persecution will persist in Myanmar and elsewhere.

"The most meaningful contribution the international community can make for the Rohingya is to bring Min Aung Hlaing and other military leaders before an international court," said Chris Sidoti of SAC-M.

Today, we reaffirm our commitment to never forget. To always support the Rohingya's fight for justice. To stand with the Rohingya in strength, unity and resistance to military tyranny and with all those affected by genocide.

