

Republican National Committee

Resolution Commending the Trump Administration's Leadership on Religious Freedom & Efforts to Remedy Religious Persecution in Burma

WHEREAS, more than 4,000,000 Christians in Burma have been suffering increased abuse in the wake of President Obama's lifting of U.S. sanctions, including stoning, military style gang-raping of ethnic-minority women, and other crimes against humanity;

WHEREAS, the Burmese government had a violent history of persecuting and expelling indigenous Hindus since the 1960's;

WHEREAS, on August 25, 2017, the Burmese military began razing 400 Rohingya villages containing approximately 1 million people, and committed crimes against humanity, including murder, torture, rape, and gross acts of brutality; and whereby the Burmese military believes 90% of the Rohingya population has been eradicated from Burma;

WHEREAS, the Burmese are building "Transit Camps" which are deemed concentration camps to house any remaining Rohingya in Burma;

WHEREAS, the State Department has declared that "Ethnic Cleansing" is occurring against the Rohingya people in the Rakhine State of Burma;

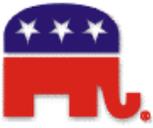
WHEREAS, because the Rohingya population has now largely been killed or has fled, the Burmese military has focused its forces back on the Kachin Christians, where over the past seven years 450 villages have been burned, and over 60 churches have been bombed;

WHEREAS, under the Burmese constitution, civilian authorities have no authority over the Burmese security forces;

WHEREAS, the Burmese constitutional provisions grant one-quarter of parliamentary seats to active duty military appointees; and whereas the Burmese military also has the authority to appoint the ministers of defense, home affairs, and border affairs and one of two vice presidents, as well as to assume power over all branches of the government should the Burmese president declare a national state of emergency;

WHEREAS, in addition to the atrocities in Rakhine State in Burma, the most significant violations of human rights issues include: arbitrary or unlawful killings; politically motivated arrests; authorities' human rights violations against civilians in other ethnic minority areas and conflict zones, particularly in Kachin State and Shan State in Burma; continued harsh conditions in prisons and labor camps; restrictions on freedom of speech, assembly, and association, including intimidation and arrest of journalists; restrictions on freedom of religion; continued

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statelessness for some populations and severe restrictions on freedom of movement; trafficking in persons, including forced labor of adults and children;

WHEREAS, Congress funded \$3 million in its Fiscal Year 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Bill to commission documentation of human rights violations against the Rohingya and others;

WHEREAS, displaced Rohingya are considered refugees regardless of their legal status in their current location;

WHEREAS, President Trump's Ambassador at Large for Religious Liberty Sam Brownback recently visited the camps with nearly 1 million refugees who fled Burma and who are now sheltered in camps in Bangladesh; and whereby Ambassador Brownback observed the violence these refugees endured was the worst he had ever seen and vowed a strong U.S. response;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is hosting a Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom in Washington, DC, from July 24 – 26, 2018, which is the first-ever Ministerial to advance religious freedom around the world;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that, the Republican National Committee supports religious freedom; and

RESOLVED that, the Republican National Committee commends the Trump Administration for promoting religious liberty by hosting the first-ever Ministerial designed to promote religious freedom and produce real change; and

RESOLVED that the Republican National Committee acknowledges that the atrocities committed against the Rohingya, the Kachin, and other ethnic and religious minorities appears to be genocide; and

Be it RESOLVED that the Republican National Committee commends the Trump Administration for the dedicated work of Secretary of State Pompeo, Ambassador Brownback, and other leadership to champion religious freedom around the globe.