



Human Rights on Capitol Hill

September 25, 2017 (Edition #2)

On September 25 [Amnesty International USA](#) (“AIUSA”) members will be on Capitol Hill lobbying their representatives on these and other human rights issues.

1. **DREAM Act** – Congress must pass a clean DREAM Act with NO border wall and NO measures that would endanger Central American children.
2. **Gun Violence** – House should reject gun silencer bill.
3. **Rohingya** – Congress should press Myanmar government to halt ethnic cleansing campaign against Rohingya minority.
4. **Central American Children** – AIUSA opposes House-passed bill that will endanger children fleeing gang violence in Central America.

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1. **Congress must pass clean Dream Act with NO border wall and NO additional border enforcement measures that would harm Central American children and families.**

Congress should quickly act to protect the broadest population of Dreamers by providing permanent residency and a pathway to U.S. citizenship. At the same time [AIUSA](#) is concerned about statements made by [Democratic congressional leaders](#) suggesting a willingness to consider a package that includes new border enforcement. AIUSA vigorously opposes the [border wall](#) and any [measures that would endanger Central American children](#) seeking protection. Congress must pass a [robust Dream Act](#) without sacrificing the welfare of residents of U.S. border communities and the lives of Central American children fleeing sexual abuse, gang violence, and torture.



2. House should reject gun silencer bill (H.R. 3668) – likely floor vote during week of Sept. 25.

Saving lives from gun violence is a human rights issue. The Sportsman Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act (H.R. 3668) contains a provision that would make it easier for people across the country to obtain gun silencers without any oversight or procedures in place to ensure that these devices are not used to commit murder. The bill passed the House Committee on Natural Resources on September 12th and is likely headed to the House floor for the week of September 25th. [AIUSA](#) urges all House Members to vote NO on H.R. 3668.



3. Congress should press Myanmar to halt ethnic cleansing campaign against Rohingya.

Since August 25, 2017, more than 420,000 [Rohingya have fled Myanmar's Rakhine State](#). This exodus represents about one half of the entire Rohingya population in Myanmar. Myanmar security forces have launched a brutal campaign against the Rohingya which bears all the hallmarks of a “textbook case of ethnic [cleansing](#),” as described by the UN Human Rights Chief. Amnesty International (“AI”) [experts have captured high-resolution satellite imagery](#) of Rohingya villages burned to the ground and utterly destroyed. AI crisis [experts](#) at the Myanmar-Bangladesh border have interviewed Rohingya refugees who describe how the Myanmar military has engaged in open shootings of children and wholesale burnings of Rohingya villages. AI has also interviewed victims of [landmines](#), which AI believes have been intentionally planted along the routes used by fleeing Rohingya.

Some 420,000 people have fled from Myanmar to Bangladesh in the span of one month, making this the world's fastest growing refugee crisis. The situation on the ground is dire, the scale unprecedented, and the need to act – immediate and imperative.

Congress should pass [S. Res. 250 \(Durbin-McCain\)](#) which condemns attacks on the Rohingya, urges Myanmar to allow unrestricted access to the U.N. Fact-Finding Mission and to humanitarian aid organizations in Rakhine State. In addition, Congress should press the Myanmar government

to implement the recommendations of the [Advisory Commission on Rakhine State](#) chaired by former U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, which includes a recommendation that the Myanmar government confer citizenship to the Rohingya.



4. AIUSA [opposes](#) House-passed bill that will subject Central American children to deportation to conditions of torture and lethal violence.

On September 14, the House passed the [misleadingly named “Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act” \(H.R. 3697\)](#). This bill would endanger children and families fleeing torture, gang violence, and lethal violence in Central America. H.R. 3697 would make it impossible for a child to be admitted to the U.S. if a Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) officer suspects that the child is associated with a “criminal gang.” H.R. 3697 would bar all forms of refugee protection from anyone whom DHS or an immigration judge “has reason to believe” is or has been a member of a criminal gang or who has participated in the group’s activities, including non-criminal activities. The combination of an overly broad definition of “criminal gang” and an impermissibly low “reason to believe” standard will result in the deportation of Central American children back to conditions of torture or lethal violence. AIUSA urges the [Senate](#) to reject this bill which violates the human rights of people fleeing torture and violence.

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