

HALT MYANMAR MILITARY'S ETHNIC CLEANSING OF ROHINGYA: PASS S. 2060/H.R. 4223

Congress should pass S. 2060 in the Senate and H.R. 4223 in the House of Representatives. These bills commit humanitarian assistance to aid the Rohingya, prohibit certain military cooperation with the Myanmar military, and hold senior military officials accountable for crimes against humanity.

Since late August 2017, the Myanmar military has pursued a systematic ethnic cleansing campaign against the Rohingya in northern Rakhine State. What has occurred in Rakhine State amounts to nothing less than crimes against humanity. Over [688,000 Rohingya refugees](#), including over 250,000 children, have fled to neighboring Bangladesh. This humanitarian crisis is a direct result of Myanmar military's campaign of violence, marked by murder, deportation and forcible displacement, torture, rape, persecution, apartheid and other inhumane acts such as the denial of life-saving provisions. At the root of this crisis is the Myanmar military's absolute grip on power and latitude to operate with impunity.

These crimes against humanity, detailed in a [recent report by Amnesty International](#), have not abated. During a research trip to Bangladesh in January 2018 Amnesty International [uncovered fresh evidence](#) of ongoing ethnic cleansing, as the Myanmar military continues to starve, abduct, and rob Rohingya. Amnesty International is urging the U.S., in concert with the international community, to impose a comprehensive arms embargo and targeted financial sanctions against senior Myanmar military officials responsible for crimes against humanity. Amnesty is also calling for the U.S. to increase humanitarian aid to assist Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh as well as those internally displaced in Myanmar.

This is a crisis that demands not only immediate attention to meet the urgent humanitarian need, but also requires solutions to tackle the root causes fully protect human rights, and establish accountability for those responsible for heinous crimes. If passed and enacted, S. 2060 and H.R. 4223 would significantly increase the pressure on the Myanmar military officials responsible for these terrible atrocities, prompt investigations and prosecutions, and require reporting on ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

What do S. 2060 and H.R. 4223 call for?

The Burma Human Rights and Freedom Act of 2017 (S. 2060) and the BURMA Act of 2017 (H.R. 4223) are a bipartisan, bicameral effort to bring about an end to the violence against the Rohingya. If enacted into law, they would prohibit certain military to military cooperation with Myanmar including exchanges and training programs. The legislation calls on Myanmar to provide unfettered access to northern Rakhine state for a U.N. fact-finding mission and all humanitarian aid groups. The legislation also urges Myanmar authorities to implement all the recommendations set forth by the Kofi Annan Commission including recognition of citizenship to the Rohingya. Finally, the legislation urges regional authorities to protect Rohingya refugees from being subjected to unsafe, involuntary, or uninformed repatriation.

AIUSA Recommendations to Congress:

- **Every Senator should** vote for S. 2060, Burma Human Rights and Freedom Act
- **Every House Member should vote for H.R. 4223**, Burma Act of 2017.