

BURMA

TASK FORCE

Describe the situation

- In the last couple of weeks 125,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled to Bangladesh whereas 400,000 are uprooted within Burma and the UN is prevented from providing them water and food.
- Rohingyas are indigenous people of Burma living in their ancestral lands. They were always citizens until 1982 when their citizenship was taken away by the military regime.
- The Rohingya struggle is a peaceful with very small exception in a country where there are Christians and Buddhist ethnic groups who are fighting with arms for their rights
- According to the UN 52% of women interviewed reported being raped, some gang raped in the masjid
- The UN says Burma's Rohingya Muslims are the "most persecuted people in the world"
- It is described by seven Nobel Laureates as the textbook case of genocide

We have a responsibility to help

- As Muslims we have a responsibility to stand up for justice in any situation:
- Quran 4:135: O' you who have believed, be persistently standing firm in justice, witnesses for Allah, even if it be against yourselves or parents and relatives. Whether one is rich or poor, Allah is more worthy of both. So follow not [personal] inclination, lest you not be just. And if you distort [your testimony] or refuse [to give it], then indeed Allah is ever, with what you do, Acquainted.
- In this situation there is a particular need
- Rohingya are a small group. If we, as Muslims, do not support them, they will not be able to advocate on their own behalf, as they are our brothers and sisters

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What can we do?

- Your dua and your time is more needed since money cannot reach them.
- Burma Task Force is a coalition of all Muslim organization to support Rohingya Muslims. Please visit the site www.BurmaMuslims.org and sign up since they issue action alerts on the regular basis.
- Canada is a powerful ally of Burma but isn't applying enough pressure on Burma
- As Canadian citizens, we have a responsibility to use our influence over elected representatives to protect the Rohingya
- We can call Canadian officials and demand that the Canadian government apply pressure to Burma to pull back their military, allow access to humanitarian agencies, and support the UN investigation into mass rape, killing, and other abuses
- Worldwide rallies will be held for the Rohingya on September 16. See: [Facebook.com/BurmaTaskForceCanada](https://www.facebook.com/BurmaTaskForceCanada) for details

Do not be overwhelmed:

- Muslims have many causes. Please pick at least one cause to support on the consistent basis.
- God controls the world, we don't. But we must do our duty to care