



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

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PETITION No.: **421-01359**

BY: **MRS. ZAHID (SCARBOROUGH CENTRE)**

DATE: **MAY 18, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **SIGNED BY THE HONOURABLE CHRYSIA FREELAND**

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Response by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

SIGNATURE  
Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

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SUBJECT

**Burma**

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**ORIGINAL TEXT**

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**REPLY**

The Government of Canada remains deeply concerned by the human rights situation in Myanmar, including the treatment of ethnic and religious minorities such as the Rohingya. Canadian officials are aware of these issues and are closely following developments on the ground. Canada's Ambassador to Myanmar has visited Rakhine State in February and March 2017.

Canadian representatives have taken every opportunity to raise the plight of the Rohingya with the highest authorities in Myanmar, including the President, State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and the Commander in Chief. On June 7, 2017, the Prime Minister of Canada and the Minister of Foreign Affairs discussed the importance of promoting and protecting the human rights of the Rohingya in separate meetings with Aung San Suu Kyi during her official visit in Ottawa.

Canada has been firm and clear on the situation of the Rohingya: the Government is extremely troubled by allegations of serious human rights violations against Rohingya communities. Canada has repeatedly called for authorities to do their utmost to bring lasting peace and stability to Rakhine, and to fully restore humanitarian access. Canada was pleased by the endorsement by the State Counsellor's office of the March 2017 interim report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State chaired by former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan. The government remains committed to providing assistance to Myanmar to implement the report's recommendations.

Canada also supports a fact-finding mission on allegations of human rights abuses mandated by the Human Rights Council. Canada calls on Myanmar to cooperate with the mission.

Canada's strong messaging has been backed by concrete actions.

On June 7, 2017, Canada announced:

- \$8.8 million in support for humanitarian assistance and the advancement of peace and stability in Myanmar. This includes \$4.5 million to address the urgent needs of vulnerable conflict-affected populations in Myanmar, including the Rohingya.
- \$20 million in support for two five-year initiatives to support democratic development and enhance human rights in Myanmar, as well as increase resilience to climate change.

The protection and promotion of human rights are central to the government's approach to foreign policy, and the promotion and protection of the rights of religious and ethnic minorities, including the Rohingya, will remain a key priority in Canada's engagement with Myanmar.