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# Maldives to intervene at ICJ in support of Rohingya

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Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid delivers his statement at the 43rd Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. PHOTO/FOREIGN MINISTRY

Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulla Shahid announced the Maldivian administration's decision to file a written declaration of intervention at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague, in support of the persecuted Rohingya people.

The minister made the declaration while addressing the 43rd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva on Tuesday.

In his statement, Minister Shahid noted that the government welcomed ICJ's ruling last month, which ordered Myanmar to "take all measures within its power" to protect the Rohingya from genocide.

"The Maldives intends to support the ongoing efforts to secure accountability for the perpetrators of genocide against the Rohingya people, in line with the decision taken by the OIC during the Summit held in Makkah last year", said Minister Shahid, referring to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's calls on the ad hoc ministerial committee to launch a case over Myanmar's human rights violations against the Rohingya Muslims at the ICJ.

"The Maldives Cabinet has now decided that there are strong grounds for intervening in support of the Rohingya people in the case before the ICJ. We will be filing a written declaration at the appropriate time", declared the minister, hailing Gambia for taking initiative on the matter at the 14th Islamic Summit of the OIC.

In the wake of Minister Shahid's announcement, the foreign ministry disclosed that renowned humanitarian lawyer Amal Clooney, of Doughty Street Chambers, will represent Maldives in the case before the ICJ. Clooney notably represented Maldives' former president, Mohamed Nasheed, following his conviction on terrorism charges during the previous administration.

The decision to file a declaration of intervention at the ICJ is the latest move by the government of Maldives, which has repeatedly advocated for accountability against the persecution of the Rohingya people. Previously, the archipelago initiated a nationwide movement to aid the Rohingya, raising over MVR 18 million in funds.

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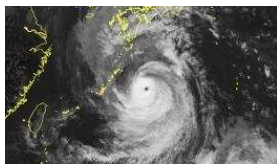


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