



DEBATE PACK

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The persecution of the Rohingya by the Burmese (Myanmar) Government

Main Chamber

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Debate nominated by the Backbench
Business Committee

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Contents

1.	Summary	2
2.	Press Articles	3
3.	Gov.uk	5
4.	PQs	11
5.	Other Parliamentary material	32
5.1	Urgent question	32
5.2	Early Day Motions	34
5.3	Petitions	35
5.4	Debates	37
6.	Further reading	38

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1. Summary

Since the outbreak of violence in Rakhine state in Burma in August 2017 around half a million people have crossed the border into Bangladesh creating what the UN Secretary-General has [described](#) as a “devastating humanitarian situation”. Hundreds of thousands of mostly Rohingya people have fled what human rights agencies are reporting as grave human rights abuses by the Burmese military. Aung Suu Kyi, Burma’s leader, has come under repeated criticism for her response to the crisis.

The Prime Minister has joined with the international community in calling on the Burmese authorities to stop the violence, allow the safe return of refugees and allow full humanitarian access. The Government has donated £30 million in aid and has pledged to match £5 million in donations to the Disaster Emergency Committee appeal for people fleeing Burma. The UK has suspended educational training programmes for the Burmese military in light of crisis.

2. Press Articles

The following is a selection of press and media articles relevant to this debate.

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Rohingya Muslims 'being starved out' by Burmese army as new surge crosses into Bangladesh

Telegraph Online
12 October 2017
Nicola Smith

Mystery surrounds deaths of Hindu villagers in Myanmar mass graves

The Guardian
12 October 2017
Shaikh Azizur Rahman

EU to cut ties with Burma over the ethnic cleansing of Rohingya Muslims

The Independent
12 October 2017
Shehab Khan

UN report details brutal Myanmar effort to drive out half a million Rohingya

The Guardian
11 October 2017

Finding out the truth about Arsa militants

BBC Online
11 October 2017
Jonathan Head

Bangladesh carving out forest land to shelter desperate Rohingya

Reuters
5 October 2017
Ruma Paul

Rohingya crisis: aid groups seek \$434m to help refugees in Bangladesh

The Guardian
4 October 2017

Rohingya Desire for Ethnicity Seen as Separatist Agenda: Former US Ambassador to Myanmar

The Irrawaddy
28 September 2017

Why Myanmar's Government Won't Negotiate With Rohingya Insurgents

VOA News
25 September 2017
Joe Freeman

Bodies of 28 Hindu villagers found in Rakhine, army claims

The Guardian
25 September 2017

The Misunderstood Roots of Burma's Rohingya Crisis

The Atlantic
25 September 2017
Krishnadev Calamur

Aung San Suu Kyi was never a saint to start with and she is not a demon now

The Spectator
23 September 2017

Aung San Suu Kyi defends handling of Rohingya crisis

Financial Times
19 September 2017
John Reed

Why Aung San Suu Kyi isn't protecting the Rohingya in Burma

Washington Post
15 September 2017
Joshua Kurlantzick

Al Qaeda warns crimes against 'Muslim brothers' will be avenged

ABC News
14 September 2017
Anne Barker

Don't single out Aung San Suu Kyi for Myanmar's Rohingya crisis

South China Morning Post
11 September 2017
Nehginpao Kipgen

The 'saintly' leader who's turning a blind eye to genocide and mass rape: Lionised by the Left, she's the Nobel Peace winner who promised her people freedom. So why is she allowing thousands to be ethnically cleansed?

Mail Online
4 September 2017
Peter Osborne

3. Gov.uk

Priti Patel will double the next £2 million of public donations to the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal for people fleeing Burma

**Department for International Development
12 October 2017**

In response to the staggering public support for the [Disasters Emergency Committee \(DEC\) Appeal](#) for people fleeing the violence and destruction in Burma, the UK Government will match pound for pound the next £2 million raised, the International Development Secretary Priti Patel announced during a visit to the DEC today (Thursday 12 October).

This is in addition to the £3 million in public donations already matched by the UK, which has helped Britain raise £9 million.

The new support will double the impact of the public's own donations and ensure that charities working on the ground can reach even more innocent men, women and children who have been forced to flee the relentless violence and atrocities in Burma, and make the treacherous journey to Bangladesh to seek refuge.

Moved by the scale of the crisis and the generosity of the British public, Ms Patel visited the DEC headquarters today where she met with British aid workers who have recently returned from Cox's Bazar where they have been helping to save the lives of Rohingya victims of persecution and brutality.

International Development Secretary, Priti Patel said:

The generosity of the British public and the speed in which they have responded to this appeal is overwhelming. Every penny raised is making a significant difference for victims of the ethnic cleansing being inflicted by the Burmese military.

The UK Government is working at every level to ensure that lifesaving aid reaches those in dire need right now. Thousands of shelter kits, sleeping mats and thermal blankets have already been distributed in Cox's Bazar and more aid is on the way to support the half a million people forced to leave everything behind in Burma and make the perilous journey to Bangladesh.

The British public has played a remarkable role and they should know that their donations are saving lives. Malnourished children on the brink of death will now be able to eat, families who have been forced to live out in the open after their villages were burned will get shelter and much needed clean drinking water will be provided to help stop the spread of disease.

It has been a privilege to meet brave British aid workers who have returned from Cox's Bazar, supporting innocent people who are grieving the loss of loved ones and are uncertain what their futures hold.

The humanity they and the British public have shown is a stark contrast to the inhumanity of the Burmese authorities. They need to stop the inhumane violence, allow people to return to their homes safely and ensure immediate access into northern Rakhine so that UK aid can provide a lifeline to those suffering.

This brings the UK's contribution to £5 million over the course of the DEC appeal and will provide vital and life-saving emergency supplies. Today's new support is on top of support that the UK is already providing to people who are in desperate need of food, water and shelter.

**International Development Secretary calls for aid to reach Burma
Department for International Development
29 September 2017**

Following the UN Security Council's meeting on Burma yesterday, International Development Secretary Priti Patel has continued her calls for humanitarian access into Burma to ensure that further lives are not lost.

International Development Secretary Priti Patel said:

I am appalled that more than half a million Rohingyas have been forced to flee their homes because of the horrific violence in Burma. Those who escaped, carrying little or nothing, have had to make the treacherous journey across the border into Bangladesh to seek safety, with countless people dying or losing loved ones.

I implore the Burmese authorities to ensure immediate and sustained humanitarian access into northern Rakhine State so that UK aid can provide a lifeline to all those who have been left to suffer and who are in desperate need of food, water, shelter and healthcare.

The relentless denial of aid is a matter of life and death for those still in northern Rakhine. It is utterly intolerable that the military who are responsible for this inhumane catastrophe have not heeded calls for restraint and pleas to allow those who are now refugees to return safely to their homes.

Britain is leading the way as the largest bilateral donor to the crisis in Bangladesh and UK aid is already making a difference on the ground, providing food for 65,000 of the most vulnerable victims, health care for 50,000, and emergency shelter for up to 26,355. We are also supporting 7,500 children, many of whom have suffered traumatic ordeals and are at risk of sexual violence and trafficking.

The world must follow the UK in helping the Rohingyas, not just now but in the long-term.

Alistair Burt visits Bangladesh
Department for International Development
29 September 2017

International Development Minister Alistair Burt has led talks on the situation in Rakhine State with key individuals in Bangladesh to step up efforts to end violence against Rohingya and allow humanitarian access to those in need.

Along with Foreign Office Minister Mark Field the successful series of talks held yesterday (Thursday, 28 September) with government officials and aid agencies centred on how best to provide further lifesaving support to the large influx of refugees in Bangladesh.

Yesterday's discussions follow talks that Minister Burt held in Thailand with the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, where he pushed for a greater regional response to the violence in Rakhine state and issues of humanitarian access.

Since the violence erupted on 25 August more than half a million Rohingya men, women and children have been forced to flee Rakhine State and have sought refuge in neighbouring Bangladesh. The UK has announced an extra £30 million to meet urgent humanitarian needs and is determined to do its very best and what is necessary to help those that are displaced.

Alistair Burt, Minister for International Development said:

The violence in Burma in the last month has forced hundreds of thousands of Rohingya men, women and children to flee their homes, livelihoods and loved ones.

UK aid is already making a difference on the ground in Bangladesh, but I urge the Burmese authorities to allow aid workers immediate and full access so we can deliver vital support to those living in fear and desperation.

The UK government has so far provided food for 65,000 of the most vulnerable victims, health care for 50,000 of them, and emergency shelter for up to 26,355.

We are also helping 7,500 children, many of whom have suffered traumatic ordeals, including sexual violence.

The UK is leading the way in the humanitarian relief effort, and it is now up to the rest of the world to follow our lead in helping the Rohingyas, not just now but in the long-term.

Minister for Asia speaks about the situation in Rakhine, Burma
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
20 September 2017

The Minister spoke about the situation in Burma during a meeting hosted by Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) during the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on Tuesday 19 September.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister Mark Field said:

The international community is united by a sense of horror at what is happening to the Rohingya Muslims of Burma. We must come together to deliver a united message.

The UK has shown leadership in coordinating the United Nations Security Council's first press statement on Burma in 8 years. That statement delivered a clear message to the Burmese security forces to stop the violence, allow aid agencies full access to northern Rakhine and implement in full the [recommendations of the Rakhine Advisory Commission](#).

Yesterday our [Foreign Secretary chaired a meeting](#) of countries committed to resolving the current crisis.

Today I call on the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation to echo the Security Council's press statement.

Let us be clear: whilst I agree with the Presidents of Turkey and Malaysia that the latest stage of this crisis was triggered by paramilitary activity it is Burma's security forces who bear responsibility for the humanitarian crisis in Rakhine.

So I also ask those countries who have influence with Burma's security forces to use that influence to persuade them to heed the Security Council's call.

I pay tribute to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh for accepting Rohingya refugees into her country. And I acknowledge the personal commitment of the Foreign Minister of Indonesia, for her attempts to seek a diplomatic solution to this crisis.

We must keep up the pressure on Burma's civilian government to send a clear message to their security forces to stop the violence, ensure a full investigation of allegations of human rights violations, full access to the UN Fact Finding Mission and commit to ensuring accountability for the perpetrators.

The UK is committed to working with international partners to find a solution to this humanitarian crisis.

Foreign Secretary hosts key summit on Burma **Foreign and Commonwealth Office** **18 September 2017**

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and other Foreign Ministers have met with senior Burmese representatives to urge an end to the violence against the Rohingya people and allow humanitarian access.

In the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, the Foreign Secretary brought together Burma's National Security Advisor and Deputy Foreign Minister with ministers from Bangladesh,

Indonesia, Turkey, Australia, Canada, Sweden, Denmark and United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley.

Along with securing full and unhindered humanitarian access for international aid agencies, including the UN, and calling for an end to violence, those present at the meeting also urged Burma to implement the Annan Commission recommendations.

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said:

While Burma has undoubtedly made encouraging progress towards democracy in the last few years, the situation in Rakhine, the terrible human rights abuses and violence are a stain on the country's reputation. For this reason Burma should not be surprised to find itself under international scrutiny and on the Security Council's agenda.

As I have repeatedly said no one wants to see a return to military rule, so it is vital that Aung San Suu Kyi and the civilian government make clear these abuses must stop. I was encouraged by our discussion and by the participation of the senior Burmese representatives, but we now need to see action to stop the violence and open up immediate humanitarian access."

As well as hosting the meeting on Burma, the Foreign Secretary, along with International Development Secretary Priti Patel and Minister for the Caribbean and Overseas Territories Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, also convened a high level discussion on the effects of Hurricane Irma.

The meeting set how out the UK, Netherlands and France are working in close partnership to help those affected by this devastating hurricane. While the focus remains responding to the immediate aftermath, it was also agreed that recovery and reconstruction must include plans to help prevent and mitigate future crises.

Commenting on the meeting on Hurricane Irma the Foreign Secretary said:

It's vital that we get better at building automatic recovery systems in the Caribbean, ensuring that we work together with our French, Dutch and US partners, so that when something like this strikes we can all respond even faster.

The UK is committed to helping those affected recover as quickly as possible and can assure people that once the cameras have left and the world moves on to the next crisis, we will still be there."

The Foreign Secretary is in New York for UNGA where he also represented the UK at President Trump's event on UN reform.

Violence in Burma: statement from Priti Patel
Department for International Development
8 September 2017

Commenting on the violence in Burma International Development Secretary, Priti Patel, said:

The appalling violence in Rakhine must stop now. Britain urgently calls upon the security forces to de-escalate the situation in Rakhine and the Government of Burma to allow immediate and full humanitarian access and support for the people and communities affected. Without full access the needs of innocent men, women and children will not be met, and more lives will be lost.

Right now, aid workers are getting British-funded humanitarian assistance to more than 80,000 people in parts of Rakhine State and this work must be allowed to continue unimpeded. Elsewhere, DFID's partners are ready to provide emergency food to 30,000 people and to treat more than 3,000 severely malnourished children and pregnant women, but cannot get the access they need. Things must change. The Government of Burma must act now and allow this desperately needed help to get through.

The impact of this violence on neighbouring Bangladesh is huge. DFID is and will continue to meet the humanitarian needs of vulnerable Rohingya who have fled into Bangladesh providing over 55,000 people with food and protecting the most vulnerable, including women and girls. But with more people fleeing for their safety, Britain is immediately releasing a further £5 million from existing funds to provide additional critical life-saving assistance - such as food, shelter, water and sanitation to those who are fleeing the violence.

Britain is ready to support the recommendations of the Kofi Annan led Rakhine Advisory Commission to assist the long-term development of all people in Rakhine state, but right now the immediate action is for the security forces to end the violence and the Government of Burma to allow humanitarian access.

Foreign Secretary calls for an end to violence in Rakhine
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
2 September 2017

The Foreign Secretary, Boris Johnson, said:

Aung Sang Suu Kyi is rightly regarded as one of the most inspiring figures of our age but the treatment of the Rohingya is alas besmirching the reputation of Burma. She faces huge challenges in modernising her country. I hope she can now use all her remarkable qualities to unite her country, to stop the violence and to end the prejudice that afflicts both Muslims and other communities in Rakhine. It is vital that she receives the support of the Burmese military, and that her attempts at peacemaking are not frustrated. She and all in Burma will have our full support in this.

4. PQs

Burma: Rohingya People

11 Oct 2017 | 785 cc221-4

Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to prevent human rights violations against the Rohingya people in Burma.

Answered by: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

My Lords, we are deeply concerned by events in Rakhine State. The British Government have led the international response to press the Burmese authorities to end the violence and enable humanitarian access and an early return of the Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh. We believe that the implementation of the Annan commission recommendations offers the best long-term solution to the underlying issues in Rakhine, and we are working with like-minded partners to support the Burmese Government with implementation.

Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead

My Lords, I thank the Minister for what he has to tell us. However, in recent weeks, over half a million more Rohingya people have been forced to flee slaughter and other atrocities, hundreds of villages have been destroyed and the border has been landmined. That is what these people are facing, which makes it hugely difficult to talk about peace and agreement. The UN has called it nothing less than ethnic cleansing, but, shamefully, Aung San Suu Kyi, whom many of us have respected in the past, has called it "fake news". Will our Government now recognise the evidence of genocidal crimes against humanity and agree to lead efforts to immediately restore UN sanctions and arms embargoes against the Burmese regime?

Answered by: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

First, I of course acknowledge the excellent work that the noble Baroness does on this issue and I share her sentiments totally. The brutality and military ruthlessness and the ethnic and religious prejudice that lies behind this human suffering are there for all to see. The noble Baroness will be aware that the UK has been leading action at the UN Security Council in the open debate that has taken place, and that there have been various engagements through both my right honourable friend the Foreign Secretary and my right honourable friend the Minister for Asia and the Pacific, who recently returned from Burma. We have also been speaking directly to the Bangladeshi Government—indeed, I met with Her Excellency the Prime Minister of Bangladesh last Friday. All the matters that the noble Baroness has raised are very much on the agenda. We do not, in any case, sell any arms to the military in Burma, and let us be absolutely clear: it is the military who are behind this ruthless and brutal treatment of the Rohingya. We were providing some military training through education on issues such as human rights, and that has also been suspended.

Asked by Lord Alderdice

On the moral case which has been identified so clearly by the noble Baroness, Lady Kinnock of Holyhead, do Her Majesty's Government appreciate that the plight of these people because they are Muslims is now being used loudly as a recruiting sergeant by ISIS in south and south-east Asia? This is not just a question of the moral imperative to do what is necessary for the Rohingya people; we in this country must also say very loudly that we oppose any role that Aung San Suu Kyi has in all of this. We rightly have a history of being very supportive of her when she needed it. For the sake of our Muslim people, we must now say very clearly that what she is doing and the stand she is taking is wrong and that we do not support it.

Answered by: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Any kind of prejudice against any ethnicity or religion is unacceptable and it is quite right to point it out. I share the noble Lord's sentiments and agree with him that the time has come for Aung San Suu Kyi to use her moral authority to challenge directly herself the military ruthlessness and ethnic prejudice that lies behind the suffering.

Asked by: Baroness Hayman

My Lords, as the noble Baroness, Lady Kinnock, said, since August there has been an influx of more than 500,000 mainly Rohingya women and children into an already poor and over-populated part of Bangladesh, leading to a desperate humanitarian situation. I declare my interest as a trustee of the Disasters Emergency Committee. Like the British public, the UK Government have been generous in their response, not least in their aid match to the DEC appeal, but in the light of the overwhelming need of those people for food, shelter, sanitation and healthcare, I urge the UK Government to continue to review their contribution and ask other nations to do so as well.

Answered by: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The noble Baroness raises a pertinent point. It is regrettable that currently, as I am sure she and the House are aware, in Rakhine itself the authorities are not allowing humanitarian access, apart from the Red Cross. We have provided £1 million directly to that programme. But on Bangladesh specifically, she is right to raise the match funding that we declared on the £3 million. The noble Baroness may be aware, as I hope the House is, that we have also provided through DfID an additional £30 million in humanitarian assistance since the crisis started. That was announced in mid-September and is being spent directly on the issues that she raises, such as food and sanitation, currently for over 126,000 refugees.

Asked by Baroness Berridge

My Lords, although the overwhelming majority of people have fled to Bangladesh, about 40,000 Rohingya have in fact fled to India. The Indian Government are now threatening to deport them back to Myanmar. Are we going to speak to our colleagues in India to outline their commitments under international law and the principle of non-refoulement, which means that they should not deport to a place where there is a risk of torture?

Answered by: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

My noble friend raises an important point about the challenge and the burden that has fallen on neighbouring countries. We have talked about Bangladesh, and on the matter she raised, I can assure her that my right honourable friend Mark Field, during his visit to south-east Asia, also visited India and met with Foreign Minister MJ Akbar to discuss various issues, including the humanitarian situation and Burma itself.

Asked by: Lord Collins of Highbury

My Lords, I welcome what the Minister said regarding the suspension of advice to the military in Burma, but has the same consideration been given to the DfID funding of parliamentary advice and the WFD funding of advice to the Union Government? While this genocide is going on, should we not suspend that activity as well?

Answered by: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The noble Lord raises an important issue. We have stood with Burma. I remember visiting Burma as a Minister in my previous role after the new Government were elected, and it was clear to me then that what the country needed most was acute assistance with governance. The noble Lord raises a couple of pertinent points and, if I may, I will take those back and write to him accordingly.

Engagements

11 Oct 2017 | 629 c331

Asked by: Will Quince

I recently visited the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh, which was truly harrowing. It can only be described as a humanitarian disaster. I am immensely proud of the work that the United Kingdom Government are doing through UK aid, but what pressure can my right hon. Friend put on the Myanmar Government to end the persecution, so that the Rohingya people can go home?

Answered by: Theresa May | Prime Minister

My hon. Friend raises a very important point. We remain deeply concerned by what is happening to the Rohingya. We know that there are now over 500,000 refugees in Bangladesh. It is a major humanitarian crisis. We have been providing support through our international development and aid, and we have provided money to the Red Cross in Burma and bilateral donations to support the refugees who have crossed into Bangladesh. We have raised the matter three times at the UN Security Council. The international community has delivered a clear message that the Burmese authorities must stop the violence, allow the safe return of refugees and allow full humanitarian access. We have also suspended any practical defence engagement that we had with Burma because of our concerns.

Burma: Rohingya

09 Oct 2017 | 105191

Asked by: Michelle Donelan

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what recent assessment has been made of the trend in the humanitarian situation in Rakhine State; and what steps she is taking to support refugees fleeing violence in that area.

Answering member: Alistair Burt | Department for International Development

We have no access to northern Rakhine State so cannot accurately predict humanitarian needs; triangulating numerous sources of information we assess that needs are likely to be acute for the entire population, both ethnic Rakhine and Rohingya. In addition to the 480,000 Rohingya now displaced into Bangladesh, the Government of Burma has stated it estimates a further 27,000 ethnic Rakhine are also internally displaced within Rakhine State. The UK has repeatedly called on the Burmese authorities to end violence, facilitate full humanitarian access to all communities in Rakhine State, encourage return and implement the recommendations of the August 2017 Rakhine Advisory commission report. The UK is providing an additional £30 million to meet the urgent needs in both Bangladesh and Burma of those affected by the violence.

Rohingya: Burma

09 Oct 2017 | 10189

Asked by: Lyn Brown

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to classify members of the Rohingya community as stateless in respect of applications for asylum.

Answering member: Brandon Lewis | Home Office

Whether a person is stateless is a matter of fact and law. Therefore, each case needs to be considered on its facts. It is open to a person to apply for leave to remain as a stateless person. This cannot be done at the same time as an asylum claim is being pursued.

Burma: Rohingya

25 Sep 2017 | HL1436

Asked by: Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to press the government and military of Burma to allow unhindered access to all areas of Rakhine State for international aid organisations, human rights monitors, and media.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Foreign Secretary spoke with State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi on 7 and 17 September. He raised our concerns about the continuing violence in Rakhine State, the need for any allegations of human rights abuses to be investigated and for humanitarian access to be granted to

affected communities. He also convened a meeting of Foreign Ministers to discuss Rakhine at the UN General Assembly on 18 September, where he pressed for an end to the violence and full humanitarian access. The Minister of State discussed these points further in an Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) event at UNGA on 19 September.

The Prime Minister also urged the Burmese military to stop the violence in Rakhine State and announced the UK would suspend defence engagement until the issue is resolved.

I have also raised Burma in the Human Rights Council on 11 September, where I strongly condemned the violence and pressed the security forces, who are in the lead in Rakhine, to protect civilians and abide by international norms. The UK also discussed Burma during the Interactive Dialogue with the Fact Finding Mission on 19 September, and the Item 4 statement on the same day, and pressed Burma on the same points.

We will continue to urge the Burmese authorities to allow the access of aid, food and medication to all affected communities in Rakhine. We are working closely with them to support this.

The Burmese authorities organised a visit of local and international media to Maugdaw in Rakhine State at the end of last week.

Burma: Rohingya **25 Sep 2017 | HL1435**

Asked by: Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they will seek to take through the UN Security Council in response to the crisis in Rakhine State, Burma, following the recent discussions in the Security Council.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The UK has raised Burma twice at the UN Security Council since the outbreak of the current violence, and secured the Council's first press elements on Burma in eight years. I refer the Noble Lord to the UK Permanent Representative's remarks to the press following the 13 September Security Council consultations, in which he said that the UK would get to work on further products, such as a Presidential Statement.

The UK has been active in other fora in response to the crisis in Rakhine. The Foreign Secretary convened a meeting of Foreign Ministers to discuss Rakhine at the UN General Assembly on 18 September, where he pressed for an end to the violence and full humanitarian access. The Minister of State, Rt Hon Mark Field MP discussed these points further in an OIC event at UNGA on 19 September.

The Prime Minister also urged the Burmese military to stop the violence in Rakhine State and announced the UK would suspend defence engagement until the issue is resolved.

I have also raised Burma in the Human Rights Council on 11 September, where I strongly condemned the violence and pressed the security forces, who are in the lead in Rakhine, to protect civilians and abide by international norms. The UK also discussed Burma during the Interactive Dialogue with the Fact Finding Mission on 19 September, and the Item 4 statement on the same day, and pressed Burma on the same points.

Burma: Armed Conflict
25 Sep 2017 | HL1244

Asked by: The Lord Bishop of Coventry

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance and support they are providing the government of Burma and other parties in Burma to de-escalate the crisis in Rakhine State.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The UK is one of the largest development and humanitarian donors to Burma and to Rakhine State. Since 2012, we have provided over £30 million in humanitarian assistance, including on food and sanitation for over 126,000 people.

The UK is also the largest bilateral donor supporting displaced Rohingya refugees and the vulnerable communities which host them in Bangladesh. The Department for International Development has allocated £20.9 million to respond to humanitarian needs between 2017 and 2022.

On August 30 and September 13, the UK raised the situation in Rakhine in the UN Security Council. We also discussed Burma at the September session of the UN Human Rights Council. Our immediate priority is to make sure food and medical assistance can be provided to displaced civilians from all communities. We urge the Government of Burma to address the growing humanitarian crisis in Rakhine and implement the recommendations of the Kofi Annan-led Rakhine Advisory Commission.

Burma: Rohingya
25 Sep 2017 | HL1207

Asked by: Lord Ahmed

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made any representations to the government of Myanmar regarding the recent violence against the Rohingya community.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Following the recent outbreak of violence in Rakhine State, the Foreign Secretary has twice spoken with State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and has raised our concerns. Our Ambassador in Rangoon has also raised our concerns with the Burmese authorities. We convened discussions on Burma at the UN Security Council on 30 August and 13 September. The Foreign Secretary convened a meeting of foreign ministers at the UN on 18 September during which he called on the Burmese National Security

Adviser and Deputy Foreign Minister present to heed the Security Council's call to stop the violence and ensure full humanitarian access in northern Rakhine. Our High Commissioner in Dhaka has discussed the situation with the Government of Bangladesh.

Burma: Rohingya

21 Sep 2017 | HL1438

Asked by: Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance they are giving to the authorities in Burma to regularise the citizenship of those Rohingyas legally entitled to Burmese citizenship.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We continue to urge the Government of Burma to improve living conditions and the citizenship status of all communities in Burma, particularly those who face severe discrimination, such as the Rohingya.

We support the Rakhine Advisory Commission, led by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, and welcomed its report published on 24 August. The Commission recommended that the Government of Burma take full responsibility for all residents in Rakhine State, ensure access to services and humanitarian aid and accelerate the verification process in line with the 1982 Citizenship Act. We assess that the Commission's recommendations provide the most realistic solution to address the underlying issues in Rakhine. The UK has repeatedly urged the Government of Burma to implement the recommendations and stands ready to support Burma to implement them.

Burma: Rohingya

21 Sep 2017 | HL1394

Asked by: Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the 1st State Counsellor of Myanmar, Aung San Suu Kyi, regarding the persecution of the Rohingya people.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Following the recent outbreak in violence in Rakhine State, the Foreign Secretary spoke with State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi on 7 and 17 September. He raised our concerns about the continuing violence, the need for any allegations of human rights abuses to be investigated and for humanitarian access to be granted to affected communities. We will continue to raise our concerns about the situation in Rakhine and the plight of the Rohingya with the Government of Burma.

Burma: Rohingya

21 Sep 2017 | HL1241

Asked by: Lord Carlile of Berriew

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to make representations to the government of Myanmar concerning the position of the Rohingyas, in particular their personal and group rights.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The British Government is deeply concerned by the situation in Rakhine and discrimination against the Muslim minority Rohingya population. Following the recent outbreak of violence in Rakhine State the Foreign Secretary has twice spoken with State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and has raised our concerns. Our ambassador in Rangoon has also raised our concerns with the Burmese authorities. The Minister of State for International Development (Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP) visited Burma in July. He discussed the situation in Rakhine State with the Burmese Ministers of Health and Education and met Rohingya leaders. We will continue to raise our concerns at every opportunity.

We are also urging the Government of Burma to improve living conditions and to address the citizenship status of the Rohingya and all communities in Burma, particularly those who face severe discrimination.

Burma: Military Aid

20 Sep 2017 | HL1437

Asked by: Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to suspend their programme of military training with the Burmese army in the light of its attacks on civilians in Rakhine State.

Answering member: Earl Howe | Ministry of Defence

In light of the ongoing violence in Burma's Rakhine State and the growing humanitarian crisis it has caused, the UK Ministry of Defence has decided to suspend all training and educational courses provided to the Burmese military with immediate effect.

Burma: Rohingya

20 Sep 2017 | 10274

Asked by: Julie Cooper

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to support discussions with Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the Commander in Chief of the Myanmar armed forces on ending the situation in Rakhine state.

Answering member: Mark Field | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We have not had direct discussions with the Commander in Chief. The Foreign Secretary spoke with State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi on 7

September. He raised our concerns about the continuing violence, the need for any allegations of human rights abuses to be investigated and for humanitarian access to be granted to affected communities. We continue to raise our concerns with the Burmese authorities.

Burma: Military Aid
20 Sep 2017 | 10060

Asked by: Afzal Khan

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to the recent violence against the Rohingya minority in Rakhine State, if he will review the merits of continuing to provide UK military training to Myanmar's armed forces.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Ministry of Defence

In light of the ongoing violence in Burma's Rakhine State and the growing humanitarian crisis it has caused, the UK Ministry of Defence has decided to suspend all practical defence engagement with Burma, and all ongoing educational training has been suspended with immediate effect.

Burma: Refugees
20 Sep 2017 | 10020

Asked by: Afzal Khan

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what aid the Government is providing for refugees arriving in Bangladesh from Myanmar.

Answering member: Alistair Burt | Department for International Development

Between 2014 and 2016, DFID has provided nearly £8 million to support humanitarian assistance to Rohingya refugees and the vulnerable host communities that support them.

Prior to this influx, DFID committed a further £5.9 million to meet the needs of the most vulnerable refugees and the host communities that support them.

The UK has been a leader in responding to the crisis – in speed and size – mobilising an additional £30 million to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of vulnerable men, women and children in both Bangladesh and Burma.

UK assistance in Bangladesh will continue to focus on the critical needs of the most vulnerable among new arrivals, and among existing refugees and host communities. We are supporting work inside and outside camps providing lifesaving assistance, including emergency shelter, food and nutrition assistance and safe water and sanitation.

Burma: Rohingya

19 Sep 2017 | 9961

Asked by: Julie Cooper

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent meetings his Department has had with the UK Ambassador to the UK on the situation in Rakhine State, Myanmar.

Answering member: Mark Field | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We have a regular dialogue with the Burmese Ambassador and others at the Burmese Embassy in London on a range of issues including the situation in Rakhine. The Minister for Asia and the Pacific spoke to the Ambassador on 18 September about the situation in Rakhine and other matters.

Burma: Rohingya

19 Sep 2017 | 9959

Asked by: Julie Cooper

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to support the ceasefire offered by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army to the Myanmar Government in order to allow humanitarian relief to enter Rakhine.

Answering member: Mark Field | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We note the ceasefire offered by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army to the Burmese Government, and the response of the Government spokesperson. We continue to have discussions with the Burmese Government on the situation in Rakhine. The UK's immediate priority is to ensure humanitarian access is provided to those in desperate need. That is why the UK has released a further £5 million from existing funds to provide additional critical life-saving assistance – such as food, shelter, water and sanitation to those who are fleeing the violence.

Burma: Rohingya

19 Sep 2017 | 9958

Asked by: Julie Cooper

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations his Department has made to the Myanmar Government on the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army ceasefire.

Answering member: Mark Field | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We note the ceasefire offered by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army to the Burmese Government, and the response of the Government spokesperson. We continue to have discussions with the Burmese Government on the situation in Rakhine. The Foreign Secretary spoke to State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi about the issue on 17 September and our Ambassador raised these issues frequently.

The UK's immediate priority is to ensure humanitarian access is provided to those in desperate need. That is why the UK has released a further £5 million from existing funds to provide additional critical life-saving assistance – such as food, shelter, water and sanitation to those who are fleeing the violence.

Burma: Rohingya
19 Sep 2017 | 9957

Asked by: Julie Cooper

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps the Government is taking to support the authorities in Bangladesh in taking refugees from Rakhine State, Myanmar.

Answering member: Mark Field | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The UK is the largest bilateral donor in Bangladesh supporting displaced Rohingya refugees and the vulnerable communities which host them. DFID has allocated £20.9 million for responding to humanitarian needs between 2017 and 2022. Via this programme, the UK will deliver support through a joint UN programme and through the NGO Action Contre la Faim. I have spoken with my Ministerial opposite number on these issues on 12 September.

In response to the latest violence, the UK has released a further £5 million from existing funds to provide additional critical life-saving assistance – such as food, shelter, water and sanitation to those who are fleeing the violence.

Burma: International Assistance
19 Sep 2017 | 9955

Asked by: Julie Cooper

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department has taken to prepare for a potential humanitarian intervention and assistance mission in Myanmar.

Answering member: Mark Field | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Foreign Secretary most recently spoke with State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi on 17 September. He once again raised our concerns about the continuing violence, the need for any allegations of human rights abuses to be investigated and for humanitarian access to be granted to affected communities. Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, made a statement at the 36th session of the Human Rights Council on 11 September which made clear that the UK strongly condemned all violence in Rakhine State and called on all parties to de-escalate tensions and address the humanitarian crisis. Pursuant to the strategy set out in my response to the Urgent Question on 5 September we have also called for a further meeting at the UN Security Council on 13 September which will discuss how humanitarian access can be improved on the ground in Rakhine State.

The UK has long been one of the biggest contributors of humanitarian aid for the displaced population in Rakhine State. We have provided over £30 million in humanitarian assistance since 2012, including food and sanitation for over 126,000 people. In the current context, access to the worst affected populations is seriously constrained. We are working at the highest levels with the government, other donors and the UN to improve access and ensure that aid reaches those that need it most. The UK has also committed £10.9 million to meet the needs of displaced Rohingya and the host communities who support them in Bangladesh. Of this, £5m has already been released to provide critical life-saving assistance – such as food, shelter, water and sanitation to those who are fleeing the violence.

Burma: Rohingya
19 Sep 2017 | 9931

Asked by: Afzal Khan

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, when last he discussed repression and violence in Rakhine State with Aung San Suu Kyi.

Answering member: Mark Field | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Foreign Secretary most recently spoke with State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi on 17 September. He once again raised our concerns about the continuing violence, the need for any allegations of human rights abuses to be investigated and for humanitarian access to be granted to affected communities.

Burma: Humanitarian Aid
18 Sep 2017 | HL1245

Asked by: The Lord Bishop of Coventry

To ask Her Majesty's Government what humanitarian assistance they are providing to help alleviate the emerging humanitarian crisis in Rakhine State in Burma.

Answering member: Lord Bates | Department for International Development

Since 2012, the UK has provided over £30 million in humanitarian assistance in Rakhine state, including food and sanitation for over 126,000 people. Our partners are delivering humanitarian assistance to more than 80,000 people in the non-conflict zones of Rakhine State. We continue to strongly urge the Burmese authorities to allow the access of aid, food and medication to all affected communities in Rakhine and we are working closely with them to support this. In northern Rakhine DFID partners are ready to provide emergency food assistance to 30,000 people and to treat more than 3,000 severely malnourished children and pregnant women once access is granted. DFID has also committed £10.9 million to meet the needs of displaced Rohingya and the host communities who support them in Bangladesh.

Burma: Rohingya

18 Sep 2017 | HL1211

Asked by: Lord Ahmed

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support, if any, they plan to give to the government of Bangladesh to accommodate Rohingya refugees from Myanmar.

Answering member: Lord Bates | Department for International Development

We are working at the highest levels with the government, other donors and the UN to improve access and ensure that aid reaches those that need it most. However this is a changing situation and there is not yet access to the conflict areas for a needs assessment. We are working with others to establish a picture of what is happening, where people are and what shape they are in. The UK has long been one of the biggest contributors of humanitarian aid for the displaced population in both Burma and Bangladesh. DFID has already committed £5.9 million to meet the needs of displaced Rohingya and the host communities who support them in Bangladesh. This is reaching 55,188 people with a range of support including food, education and protection of the safety and dignity of the most vulnerable, including women and girls. A further £5 million is being made available to provide urgent assistance to newly arriving refugees with needs such as food, shelter, and water and sanitation. Within Rakhine State we have provided over £30 million in humanitarian assistance since 2012, including food and sanitation for over 126,000 people. The UK Government is deeply concerned about the violence against the Rohingya and other communities in Burma's Rakhine State, and the plight of thousands fleeing their homes.

Burma: Rohingya

18 Sep 2017 | HL1210

Asked by: Lord Ahmed

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the UK is, or will be, contributing humanitarian aid for Rohingya refugees; and if so, how much has been contributed to date.

Answering member: Lord Bates | Department for International Development

We are working at the highest levels with the government, other donors and the UN to improve access and ensure that aid reaches those that need it most. However this is a changing situation and there is not yet access to the conflict areas for a needs assessment. We are working with others to establish a picture of what is happening, where people are and what shape they are in. The UK has long been one of the biggest contributors of humanitarian aid for the displaced population in both Burma and Bangladesh. DFID has already committed £5.9 million to meet the needs of displaced Rohingya and the host communities who support them in Bangladesh. This is reaching 55,188 people with a range of support including food, education and protection of the safety and dignity of the most vulnerable, including women and girls. A further £5 million is being made available to provide urgent assistance to newly arriving refugees with needs such as food, shelter, and water

and sanitation. Within Rakhine State we have provided over £30 million in humanitarian assistance since 2012, including food and sanitation for over 126,000 people. The UK Government is deeply concerned about the violence against the Rohingya and other communities in Burma's Rakhine State, and the plight of thousands fleeing their homes.

Burma: Refugees

18 Sep 2017 | HL1208

Asked by: Lord Ahmed

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the needs of refugees fleeing violence in the Rakhine region of Myanmar.

Answering member: Lord Bates | Department for International Development

We are working at the highest levels with the government, other donors and the UN to improve access and ensure that aid reaches those that need it most. However this is a changing situation and there is not yet access to the conflict areas for a needs assessment. We are working with others to establish a picture of what is happening, where people are and what shape they are in. The UK has long been one of the biggest contributors of humanitarian aid for the displaced population in both Burma and Bangladesh. DFID has already committed £5.9 million to meet the needs of displaced Rohingya and the host communities who support them in Bangladesh. This is reaching 55,188 people with a range of support including food, education and protection of the safety and dignity of the most vulnerable, including women and girls. A further £5 million is being made available to provide urgent assistance to newly arriving refugees with needs such as food, shelter, and water and sanitation. Within Rakhine State we have provided over £30 million in humanitarian assistance since 2012, including food and sanitation for over 126,000 people. The UK Government is deeply concerned about the violence against the Rohingya and other communities in Burma's Rakhine State, and the plight of thousands fleeing their homes.

Burma: Rohingya

18 Sep 2017 | 10010

Asked by: Hilary Benn

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to the Government of Burma on the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights' assessment of Burma's operations against Rohingya Muslims constituting a textbook example of ethnic cleansing.

Answering member: Mark Field | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Since the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights' statement on 11 September, our Ambassador has raised the situation in Rakhine with Burmese Ministers and has set out our concerns about the violence, the large scale displacement of civilians, and the need for improved humanitarian access. The Foreign Secretary had earlier spoken to State

Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi on 7 September in similar terms and to underline the need for any allegations of human rights abuses to be investigated. Subsequently, at his press conference on 14 September, the Foreign Secretary described the situation in Rakhine as an “abomination”, and urged the displaced Rohingya to be allowed back and for the abuse of their human rights and killings to stop.

Burma: Rohingya
13 Sep 2017 | 8984

Asked by: Stephen Kerr

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent representations his Department has made to the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the treatment of the Rohingya people.

Answering member: Mark Field | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Following the recent outbreak in violence in Rakhine State, the Foreign Secretary has spoken with State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and has raised our concerns. Our Ambassador in Rangoon has also raised these issues in several occasions. The Minister of State for International Development, my Rt Hon Friend Alistair Burt MP, visited Burma in July. He discussed the situation in Rakhine State with the Burmese Ministers of Health and Education and met Rohingya leaders.

Burma: Humanitarian Aid
12 Sep 2017 | 9048

Asked by: Barry Sheerman

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that sufficient food and medical assistance is being provided to the displaced civilians of Rakhine State.

Answering member: Alistair Burt | Department for International Development

The UK has long been one of the biggest contributors of humanitarian aid for the displaced population in Rakhine State. We have provided over £30 million in humanitarian assistance since 2012, including food and sanitation for over 126,000 people. In the current context access to the worst affected populations is seriously constrained. We are working at the highest levels with the government, other donors and the UN to improve access and ensure that aid reaches those that need it most. DFID has also committed £10.9 million to meet the needs of displaced Rohingya and the host communities who support them in Bangladesh. The UK Government is deeply concerned about the violence against the Rohingya and other communities in Burma’s Rakhine State, and the plight of thousands fleeing their homes.

Burma: Rohingya

12 Sep 2017 | 8605

Asked by: West, Catherine | Party: Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of (a) the security situation, (b) human rights and (c) religious freedom in the state of Rohingya, Burma.

Answering member: Mark Field | Foreign and Commonwealth Office
The British Government continues to discuss the situation in Rakhine with the Government of Burma. On 7 September, the Foreign Secretary called State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi to raise our strong concerns about Rakhine. They agreed any human rights abuses or violations must be investigated urgently. Our Ambassador continues to engage with officials from the Burmese Foreign Ministry on the full range of challenges facing Rakhine State.

On 30 August the UK convened a discussion on Burma at the UN Security Council. The UK urged the security forces in Rakhine to show restraint and called for all parties to de-escalate tensions. The Foreign Secretary released a statement on 2 September calling for an end to the violence. Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon made a statement at the 36th session of the Human Rights Council on 11 September which made clear that the UK strongly condemned the violence, and called on all parties to de-escalate tensions and address the humanitarian crisis

Burma: Rohingya

12 Sep 2017 | 8602

Asked by: Catherine West

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with (a) Aung San Suu Kyi and (b) officials from the Burmese Foreign Ministry on (i) the security situation, (ii) human rights and (iii) religious freedom in the state of Rohingya, Burma.

Answering member: Mark Field | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The British Government continues to discuss the situation in Rakhine with the Government of Burma. On 7 September, the Foreign Secretary called State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi to raise our strong concerns about Rakhine. They agreed any human rights abuses or violations must be investigated urgently. Our Ambassador continues to engage with officials from the Burmese Foreign Ministry on the full range of challenges facing Rakhine State.

On 30 August the UK convened a discussion on Burma at the UN Security Council. The UK urged the security forces in Rakhine to show restraint and called for all parties to de-escalate tensions. The Foreign Secretary released a statement on 2 September calling for an end to the violence. Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon made a statement at the 36th session of the Human Rights Council on 11 September which made clear that the UK strongly condemned the violence, and called on all parties to de-escalate tensions and address the humanitarian crisis.

Burma: Rohingya

12 Sep 2017 | 8311

Asked by: Lyn Brown

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what plans his Department has to respond to recent reports of the ethnic cleansing of Rohingya people in Rakhine State, Myanmar.

Answering member: Mark Field | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The British Government continues to discuss the situation in Rakhine with the Government of Burma. On 7 September, the Foreign Secretary called State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi to raise our strong concerns about Rakhine. They agreed any human rights abuses or violations must be investigated urgently. Our Ambassador continues to engage with officials from the Burmese Foreign Ministry on the full range of challenges facing Rakhine State.

On 30 August the UK convened a discussion on Burma at the UN Security Council. The UK urged the security forces in Rakhine to show restraint and called for all parties to de-escalate tensions. The Foreign Secretary released a statement on 2 September calling for an end to the violence. Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon made a statement at the 36th session of the Human Rights Council on 11 September which made clear that the UK strongly condemned the violence, and called on all parties to de-escalate tensions and address the humanitarian crisis.

Burma: Crimes of Violence

12 Sep 2017 | 8310

Asked by: Lyn Brown

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the accuracy of recent reports of a massacre in Chut Pyin village in the Sittwe District of Rakhine State, Myanmar.

Answering member: Mark Field | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We are deeply concerned by the situation in Rakhine State and reports of a disproportionate response by the security forces to attacks by Rohingya militants. That is why on 30 August, the UK convened a discussion on Burma at the UN Security Council, where we urged restraint and called for all parties to de-escalate tensions. Along with the de-escalation of fighting, our immediate priority is how urgent food and medical assistance can be provided to displaced civilians from all communities. Also, our Embassy in Burma visited in Sittwe two weeks ago and plan to visit again imminently.

Burma: Rohingya

11 Sep 2017 | 8390

Asked by: Layla Moran

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps she is taking to provide humanitarian aid to Rohingya refugees fleeing from Rakhine state; and if she will make a statement.

Answering member: Alistair Burt | Department for International Development

The UK Government is deeply concerned about the violence against the Rohingya and other communities in Burma's Rakhine State, and the plight of thousands fleeing their homes. The UK has long been one of the biggest contributors of humanitarian aid for the Rohingya in both Burma and Bangladesh. DFID has already committed £5.9 million to meet the needs of displaced Rohingya and the host communities who support them in Bangladesh. This is reaching 55,188 people with a range of support including food, education and protection of the safety and dignity of the most vulnerable, including women and girls. A further £5 million is being made available to provide urgent assistance to newly arriving refugees with needs such as food, shelter, and water and sanitation. Within Rakhine State we have provided over £30 million in humanitarian assistance since 2012, including food and sanitation for over 126,000 people. We review this support frequently in light of events and needs.

Myanmar: Rohingya People

05 Sep 2017 | 783 cc1835-8

Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans

To ask Her Majesty's Government what it is doing to respond to the crisis facing the Rohingya people in Myanmar.

Answered by: Baroness Goldie

My Lords, Her Majesty's Government are deeply concerned by the situation in Rakhine and the plight of the Rohingya. We immediately raised the situation in the United Nations Security Council on 30 August, where we urged a restrained security response and that all sides de-escalate tensions. Our priority now is ensuring that urgent food and medical assistance can be provided to displaced civilians. Our heads of mission in Rangoon and Dhaka have been discussing the situation in Rakhine with their respective host Governments, including enabling humanitarian aid to reach where the need is greatest.

Asked by: The Lord Bishop of St Albans

I thank the Minister for her Answer. The United Nations is reporting that 35,000 people have crossed from Myanmar into Bangladesh in the past 24 hours alone. The two UN camps for refugees are now full. What action do Her Majesty's Government plan to take in response to this humanitarian crisis? In particular, what representations are being made to the Myanmar Government concerning the blocking of vital humanitarian aid to certain parts of Rakhine district?

Answered by: Baroness Goldie

I thank the right reverend Prelate for a very important Question. As he will be aware, the UK has long been one of the biggest bilateral development and humanitarian donors to Burma and to Rakhine state. We have provided very significant sums of money in humanitarian assistance, including food and sanitation. We are very concerned by the recent developments. We are monitoring the situation closely through our embassy in Rangoon. We raised the current situation in Rakhine in the United Nations Security Council on 30 August. Our ambassador has lobbied the Burmese Government, and our high commissioner in Dhaka has discussed the situation with the Government of Bangladesh. We also urge the Burmese Government to do everything they can to facilitate the transportation of aid to the communities that most need it.

Asked by: Lord Collins of Highbury

My Lords, there are two consequences of the situation here. There is of course the impact on Bangladesh, as the right reverend Prelate referred to, but there is also the situation of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, which has been ongoing for a long time. Could the noble Baroness explain what actions the Government are taking to put pressure on the Government of Myanmar? I know there are a lot of views about San Suu Kyi, but the people responsible in the Myanmar Government are the ministry of defence and the military. Can she explain what actions we can take and what pressure we can put on those responsible for these actions?

Answered by: Baroness Goldie

I thank the noble Lord, Lord Collins. The United Kingdom Government have been active at diplomatic level. He will be aware of the facts surrounding the regime in Burma: the military remains heavily involved in Burmese politics and in the political institutions, and controls some of the primary ministries. The UK continues to support Burma's ongoing transition from military dictatorship to civilian-led democracy. It is an ongoing process. We have to be respectful of that democratic structure, but we regularly make clear our concerns and indicate our anxieties about some of the developments within Burma.

Asked By: Baroness Berridge

My Lords, yesterday saw nearly a million people take to the streets in Chechnya, so this crisis has the potential to cause instability beyond the region. In response to a Question back in July, my noble friend mentioned that the UK Government since 2014 have given £8 million to the Bangladeshi Government to help support the Rohingyas who have crossed the border. Could my noble friend outline how much additional money has been given in the last week or so to enable the Bangladeshi Government to support those crossing the border?

Answered by: Baroness Goldie

I do not have information to hand on that specific point, although I have information about the general trend of contributions made by the UK Government. As I said earlier, the UK Government have been one of the largest development and humanitarian donors to Burma and to Rakhine State. Within Bangladesh, we are the largest bilateral donor and are supporting displaced Rohingya refugees and the vulnerable communities that host them. My understanding is that DfID has

allocated £20.9 million for responding to humanitarian needs between 2017 and 2022. That is a general indication of the position, but I do not have information on the specific amount of money within the timeframe of a week or a fortnight.

Asked by: Baroness Smith of Newnham

My Lords, the noble Baroness talked earlier about the Minister of State for the Foreign Office bringing in the North Korean ambassador. What have Her Majesty's Government done vis-à-vis the Government of Myanmar? Have there been diplomatic representations, and what actions does the noble Baroness envisage the Government taking to demonstrate our abhorrence at what is happening in Myanmar at present?

Answered by: Baroness Goldie

There has been regular diplomatic activity. I indicated earlier that the UK Government are extremely concerned about developments, and we are concerned. We condemn these attacks on police posts by Rohingya militants and urge the security forces to show restraint and all parties to de-escalate tensions. To respond to some of the questions posed earlier, our immediate priority is how urgent food and medical assistance can be provided to displaced civilians from all communities. That is where we are focusing endeavours, and I hope I have given some indication of how we are trying to assist with meeting that need.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

My Lords, during a visit to Burma I was able to visit a village where Buddhists and Muslims had coexisted for many years and where there had been a savage attack on the Muslim community: homes had been burned down and the madrassa had been destroyed. I had the opportunity of raising this, and the treatment of the Rohingya, with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. She specifically said that one of the problems has been the recognition of the citizenship rights both of those legitimately in Burma and of those who had come there illegitimately. Are we able to help in sorting out the constitutional issues to ensure that those who are entitled to citizenship are given it urgently? Can the Minister also say a word about those Rohingyas who have taken to the seas, many of whom now again face devastating consequences as those little boats are wracked by storms?

Answered by: Baroness Goldie

I thank the noble Lord, Lord Alton, who as usual speaks with authority and knowledge on these matters. He raises a very important point, but I do not have a specific answer as to when an initiative has been undertaken by the UK Government in that respect. The noble Lord makes a positive observation, and I will certainly undertake to investigate that further.

Asked by: Baroness Hussein-Ece

My Lords, I have listened carefully to the Minister's responses. She used the word "condemnation" in a previous answer, and that is the first time I have heard that. Have the Government officially condemned the actions, which are being described as genocide and ethnic cleansing, and the appalling scenes that we are witnessing, on social media and our TV screens, of families and children being driven out in the most

horrible circumstances, thousands dying and villages being burnt down? I have heard her say we are sensitive about the transition from military to democracy, but surely there is no excuse for these actions in that transition.

Answered by: Baroness Goldie

I reassure the noble Baroness that, after the violence broke out on 25 August, the UK immediately spoke out. We issued a joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office and DfID statement. We are monitoring the situation through our embassy in Rangoon, and we raised the current situation in Rakhine in the UN Security Council on 30 August. In addition to that, our ambassador has lobbied the Burmese Government, our high commissioner in Dhaka has discussed the situation with the Government of Bangladesh and on 2 September the Foreign Secretary released a statement calling for an end to the violence, so I think the UK is clearly on the record as making obvious to those involved our profound unease at what is going on. We condemn this violence and, along with other partners, are trying to look to ways both to assist Burma and to assist the plight of those who are directly affected.

5. Other Parliamentary material

5.1 Urgent question

Violence in Rakhine State [Extract]

05 Sep 2017 | 628 cc24-41

Yasmin Qureshi

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the recent violence in the Rakhine state of Myanmar.

Answering Member: Mark Field | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

I am grateful to the hon. Member for Bolton South East (Yasmin Qureshi) for raising this matter and giving the Government the opportunity to detail the significant action we have taken. Overnight on 24 August, members of the Rohingya militant group the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army—the ARSA—attacked numerous police posts in northern Rakhine. Even in the days prior to that escalation of hostilities, our embassy in Rangoon had been monitoring the situation very carefully, including travelling to the Rakhine state capital, Sittwe. We understand that tens of thousands of people have crossed the border into Bangladesh.

Kofi Annan's Rakhine advisory commission report was published immediately prior to the attacks. The Minister of State, Department for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), and I issued a joint statement at that time welcoming the report, but also condemning the attacks by Rohingya militants on Burmese security forces. At the same time, the UK strongly urged the security forces in Rakhine to show restraint and called for all parties to de-escalate the tensions.

On 30 August, at the UK's request, the UN Security Council discussed the situation in Rakhine. Our UK representative in New York led the condemnation of attacks by Rohingya militants, and urged a measured and proportionate response from the security forces. We also called for humanitarian aid to reach those in need as soon as possible and offered UK support for the Rakhine advisory commission, encouraging the international community to do likewise. The recent violence serves to underline how important it is to address the long-term issues in Rakhine and deliver for all communities; it should not deflect the Burmese Government from the key task of addressing the underlying issues that have caused people to flee. As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has said, it is vital that the civilian Government of Burma receive the support of the Burmese military, and that Aung San Suu Kyi is not thwarted in her attempts to stabilise the situation.

Along with de-escalating the fighting, our immediate priority is how urgent food and medical assistance can be provided to displaced citizens from all communities. Our ambassador in Rangoon has rightly been lobbying the Burmese Government on that, and they have confirmed that they are trying to get humanitarian aid through to

communities most in need. As many will know, that is being hampered by the security situation and by inter-communal tensions.

Our high commissioner in Dhaka, Bangladesh, has also discussed the increasingly acute humanitarian situation with the Government there, and I discussed the situation with the Bangladeshi high commissioner last week. I look forward to discussing these issues further tomorrow at a meeting arranged some weeks ago with my hon. Friend the Member for Sutton and Cheam (Paul Scully), the co-chair of the all-party group on Burma, as well as to paying a ministerial visit to Burma in the near future.

Yasmin Qureshi

Thank you for granting this urgent question, Mr Speaker. I am a little disappointed by the Minister's response, as he started by suggesting that somehow the Rohingya Muslims and these people had caused this to occur. He must be aware that for a number of years there has been the systematic rape, murder, burning and beheading of people from the Rohingya community. If it is suggested that there may have been some attacks on the police stations, that is not a sufficient reason to attempt almost to explain away what the Burmese Government are now doing to these people. Everyone knows that for years now that the Government, the security forces and the Buddhist monks have been ransacking and killing people—murdering and raping women and children. This is only a climax to the brutality that the Burmese have been carrying out against these people.

Is the Minister aware that because of what has happened recently, many young children have been beheaded and civilians have been burned alive by the military forces? Is he aware that 120,000 Rohingya have fled for their lives to Bangladesh? Will he actually condemn this campaign of ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya Muslims? Is he aware that Human Rights Watch has satellite imagery showing the destruction of entire Rohingya villages, and that there are reports of people there being rounded up into huts and burned alive? Recent reports also show a massive cover-up by the soldiers who have carried out massacres of Rohingya, by gathering their bodies up and burning them.

This is one of the worst outbreaks of violence in decades, yet the international community is, in effect, remaining silent as we watch another Srebrenica and Rwanda unfold before our eyes. Does the Minister agree that the situation requires urgent intervention? What concrete action have the Government and the Prime Minister taken to date to deal with it? Is he aware that UN aid and monitors have not been allowed in? Will the Government make further representations to the UN Security Council about the ethnic cleansing now taking place? Can consideration be given to an immediate intervention by the UN Security Council to deal with this situation? As journalist Peter Osborne said in this morning's *Daily Mail*:

“The Rohingya people were loyal allies of Britain in World War II. Now they face their darkest hour.”

We must take immediate action to help them, and I am very sorry about, and disappointed in, the Minister's starting response.

[...]

5.2 Early Day Motions

Rohingya muslims

EDM 346 (session 2017-19)

9 October 2017

Chris Law

That this House expresses deep concern at the ongoing widespread horrific violence against the minority Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, which has resulted in more than 500,000 Rohingya fleeing to Bangladesh since August 2017, making it the world's fastest-developing refugee emergency; notes that survivors in Bangladesh have recounted horrific stories of rape, mass murder and infanticide; further notes that the attacks on the Rohingya, at the hands of the Myanmar police and military, have been systematic and widespread, leading to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, to describe them as a textbook example of ethnic cleansing; notes that the Rohingya people have faced years of mistreatment at the hands of the Burmese Government and need urgent action; notes that most are living in refugee camps, denied citizenship, basic health care and employment; calls on Myanmar's state counsellor, Aung San Suu Kyi, to speak out against these shocking human rights violations and allow access into the region immediately; and urges the Government to put sustained pressure on the Myanmar Government to end the violence and to allow unhindered access for humanitarian aid to all of the Rakhine State.

Flight of Rohingya refugees from Burma

EDM 255 (session 2017-19)

5 September 2017

Ann Clwyd

That this House notes with concern the increasing number of Rohingya refugees crossing from Burma into Bangladesh, with over 100,000 having fled violence, allegedly triggered by an attack by Rohingya militants on police posts, since the end of August; is very concerned about reports from many of those who have fled describing troops and Rakhine Buddhist mobs razing their villages and attacking and killing civilians in a campaign to drive them out; notes that a million Muslim Rohingya people in Burma have faced years of mistreatment at the hands of the Burmese Government, which does not recognise them as citizens; calls on the de facto Burmese leader Aung San Sui Kyi to condemn the military campaign and allow independent observers access into the region immediately; and calls on the Government to continue urging the Burmese Government to end the violence and take robust action against hate speech, discrimination and incitement, as well as to continue assisting with the humanitarian response to displaced populations.

Persecution of Rohingyas
EDM 240 (session 2017-19)
5 September 2017
John Grogan

This House expresses its deep concern at recent developments in Myanmar; condemns the murderous attacks by militants against Burmese border posts but also the completely disproportionate response of the Burmese military against the Rohingyas who the UN consider are the most persecuted minority group in the world; further condemns the brutal assaults from the Burmese state and military over many years burning down Rohingya villages and carrying out multiple murders and rapes; calls on the de facto Burmese leader Aung San Suu Kyi as a holder of the UN Peace Prize to speak out for the human rights of the Rohingyas and to allow access for aid agencies and journalists to the affected areas; and further calls on the international community to condemn Myanmar's army chief General Min Aung Hlaing, gather evidence for possible war crimes charges against him and his generals, and to impose strong sanctions against them.

UN inquiry into Rohingya crisis in Burma
EDM 884 (session 2016-17)
26 January 2017
Tom Brake

That this House expresses deep concern at ongoing human rights violations being committed against the Rohingya by the Burmese Army and security forces, including rape, executions, torture, mass arrests and the burning of villages; further expresses concern that lifesaving aid is being blocked to more than 100,000 displaced Rohingya; notes that the government and military are denying human rights violations are taking place; agrees with the conclusion of the Government that the interim report of the investigation commission established by the Government of Burma is not credible; calls therefore on the Government to support a genuinely independent UN Commission of Inquiry into the totality of the situation in Rakhine State; and further requests that the Government asks the UN Secretary General to personally go to Burma to lead negotiations to allow unfettered humanitarian aid access.

5.3 Petitions

P002064
11 October 2017

Nic Dakin

I want to praise the work that the Bangladesh Welfare Association in North Lincolnshire does in the community, and also to thank the association for co-ordinating the petition and bringing it to me. The petition states:

The petition of residents of Scunthorpe County Constituency,

Declares that urgent action should be taken to stop the violence against Myanmar's Muslim ethnic minority, the Rohingya including genocide, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity; and further declares that the petitioners believe Rohingya Muslims are not recognised as citizens in Myanmar.

The petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to issue an urgent statement calling for an immediate end to all violence in Myanmar; further calling for immediate entry aid into Myanmar; and further requests that the House of Commons urge the Government to reach out to State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi to recognise the Rohingya Muslim community as citizens and grant legal status.

And the petitioners remain, etc.

P002061

14 September 2017

Eleanor Smith

This petition is from the Muslim community in my constituency and is about the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar.

The petition states:

The petition of residents of the UK,

Declares that urgent action should be taken to stop the violence against Myanmar's Muslim ethnic minority, the Rohingya i.e. genocide, ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity...The petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to issue an urgent statement calling for an immediate end to all violence in Myanmar; and further calling for immediate entry of aid into Myanmar (which has been suspended).

Following is the full text of the petition:

*[The petition of residents of the UK,
Declares that urgent action should be taken to stop the violence against Myanmar's Muslim ethnic minority, the Rohingya i.e. genocide, ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity; further that the petitioners cannot continue to watch the beheading of babies and children, gang rapes, and the displacement of hundreds and thousands as a genocide unfolds; further to impose conditions or sanctions on trade with Myanmar; further that Aung San Suu Kyi be stripped of her Nobel Peace Prize; further to ensure the UK does not supply arms or military training to the military; further to bring the perpetrators to the international court of justice for crimes against humanity; further to send a UN peacekeeping force to Rakhine state (Myanmar); further to establish safe haven areas within Rakhine state to stop the mass forced exodus; further to stop any arms getting to Burma junta (arms embargo); further to implement the Rakhine commission recommendations chaired by ex UN secretary Kofi Annan; further to allow in UN observers, humanitarian aid charities (British and others) and journalists; further to send*

emergency aid to all victims and refugees in neighbouring countries, especially Bangladesh; further that it is time for the Foreign Minister to ensure that there is not a repeat of Srebrenica or Rwanda.

The petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to issue an urgent statement calling for an immediate end to all violence in Myanmar; and further calling for immediate entry of aid into Myanmar (which has been suspended).

And the petitioners remain, etc.]

5.4 Debates

Burma

23 Mar 2016 | 607 cc565-590WH

Burma

22 Oct 2015 | 600 cc1258-1265

Rohingya Community (Burma)

04 Jun 2015 | 596 cc864-884

Rohingya Community (Burma)

14 Jan 2015 | 590 cc326-334WH

6. Further reading

Reports and correspondence - Foreign Affairs Committee

[Correspondence from the Ambassador of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, dated 6 October 2017](#)

[Correspondence from the Foreign Secretary, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, relating to violence in Rakhine State, dated 26 September 2017](#)

[Correspondence from the Chair of the Committee to the Foreign Secretary relating to violence in Rakhine State, dated 19 September 2017](#)

Human rights organisations

[Myanmar Homepage, OHCHR](#)

[Buddhism and State Power in Myanmar, International Crisis Group, 5 September 2017](#)

[Myanmar 2016/2017, Amnesty International Report 2016/17](#)

[Burma, Human Rights Watch](#)

[IRIN News, Myanmar](#)

Miscellaneous

[All-Party Parliamentary Group on Democracy in Burma](#)

[All-Party Parliamentary Group on Bangladesh](#)

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