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AFIC Welcomes the US Declaration of Rohingya Genocide and calls on PM Morrison to follow suit

The Biden administration has finally declared that Myanmar's military has committed genocide against the Rohingya minority. The US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken indicated at the Holocaust Museum that there is “a clear intent behind these mass atrocities – the intent to destroy Rohingya, in whole or in part.” The evidence is now clear.

AFIC notes that a genocide determination does not automatically give rise to punitive US action. The US State Department has formally used the term six times to describe massacres in Bosnia, Rwanda, Iraq and Darfur, Daesh's attacks on Yazidis and other minorities, and, over China's abuses of Uighurs and other Muslims. Additional funding for the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar was also announced.

“No doubt, there has been a need for global action to investigate and to prosecute Military abuse of power and war crimes. We welcome this long overdue Declaration and thank President Biden’s administration for their courage in confronting the Myanmar military junta. Most Australians would like to see Prime Minister Morrison officially backing this declaration. We acknowledge the work of Rohingya advocates such as the Honourable Philip Ruddock and the human rights organisations who have bravely exposed the genocide. Their work will help save lives and hopefully bring justice and peaceful coexistence. This declaration would not have been possible without their tireless work, we are grateful to them. The world cannot afford to repeat history in the way the Holocaust has occurred ever again,” said Dr Rateb Jneid.

AFIC also agrees with the U.S. Council of Muslim Organizations’s (USCMO) request, in calling world community leaders to adopt the following actions:

- 1. Ramp up economic sanctions on Myanmar’s military government and officers*



2. *Press for a UN Security Council resolution referring the Myanmar military's alleged crimes against the Rohingya and other peoples to the ICC, and take it to the general assembly in case of Chinese or Russian vetoes*
3. *Continue the investigation into Myanmar's full government – including not only its military but also its civilian leadership – at the time of the Rohingya genocide*
4. *Secure the full return, with reparations, of the nearly 1 million Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and other countries, and the restoration to their homes of at least 559,000 internally displaced Rohingya in Myanmar.*

Authorised by

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