



Australian Federation
of Islamic Councils

21 December 2022

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

**URGENT APPEAL TO RESCUE ROHINGYA REFUGEES ADRIFT NEAR THE
INDONESIAN COAST**

I write to appeal to you to coordinate with the Indonesian government to rescue the Rohingya refugees currently adrift in a boat near the Indonesian coastline.

We are extremely concerned about the desperate and life-threatening situation faced by the Rohingya refugees on the boat. As you are aware the Rohingyas have been facing unimaginable persecution, primarily because of their Muslim identity, at the hands of the Myanmar regime for the past four decades. Today we find some adrift at sea after risking their lives in pursuit of a safe place to live.

In its statement of December 19, 2022, the UNHCR, while welcoming Sri Lanka's rescue of one of the boats on December 18, repeated its appeal for rescue of a boat still adrift in sea in line with legal obligations and humanitarian traditions. Offering the reminder that 161 Rohingya refugees have been reported dead or missing at sea in 2022, UNHCR called for immediate action to save lives and avoid future deaths.

Our appeal to you is also based on the powerful statement issued by the Rohingya Human Rights Initiative on December 20, 2022. The statement, while also expressing gratitude to Sri Lanka, appeals for the rescue of the boat currently at sea. It records that this boat is one of five boats which left Bangladesh in the months of November and December this year. One of the boats has been captured by the Myanmar regime.

Our sincere hope is that once again Australia will rise to save the lives of the stranded Rohingya refugees.

Kind regards,

Dr Rateb Jneid
President, AFIC

Australian Federation of Islamic Councils

*The peak body for Australian Muslims representing
State and Territory Islamic Councils and Societies*



Sydney (Head Office): 932 Bourke Street, Zetland, NSW 2017

Melbourne: 66-68 Jeffcott Street, West Melbourne VIC 3003

Canberra: 21/41 Liardet Street, Weston ACT 2611

Perth: 17 Mercantile Way, Malaga WA 6090

W: afic.com.au **E:** admin@afic.com.au **PH:** (02) 9319 6733