



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: registry@ohchr.org

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Excellency,

I write to inform you that in the course of its 92nd session, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination received information from non-governmental organizations concerning the situation of the Rohingyas, who fled northern Rakhine State, Myanmar. It is reported, that more than 66,000 Rohingyas have crossed the border with Bangladesh in the aftermath of the security operation of 9 October 2016. The Committee has since considered the information under its early warning and urgent action procedure.

The information received by the Committee alleges that many Rohingya refugees are not registered in Bangladesh, and that undocumented Rohingya refugees live in extremely poor conditions, without adequate access to food, health care and other basic services. Further, the Committee received information about high levels of sexual violence against Rohingya women, by both the local population and other refugees, while victims reportedly face serious barriers in accessing the formal justice system.

While noting with appreciation the high number of Rohingya refugees hosted by the State party, the Committee is concerned that the above-mentioned allegations, if verified, could hinder the full enjoyment of rights under the Convention in the State party, in particular the rights enshrined in article 5 b), e) i, iii, iv, v, and in article 6.

In accordance with article 9(1) of the Convention and article 65 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee requests that the State party submit information on all of the issues and concerns outlined above by **17 July 2017**.

In particular, the Committee requests that the Government of Bangladesh provide information on:

(a) Measures to register all Rohingya refugees, including steps undertaken following the census of the undocumented Rohingya refugees conducted in June 2016;

His Excellency Mr. M. Shameem Ahsan
Permanent Representative of Bangladesh
to the United Nations Office
Geneva
e-mail: permanentmission.geneva@mofa.gov.bd



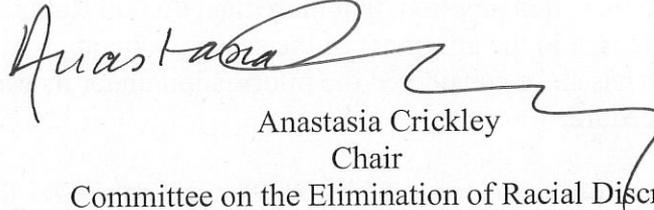
(b) Measures to facilitate access to basic services by Rohingya refugees, including food, water, housing and health care, as well as education for children;

(c) Measures to allow international aid agencies, including UN and NGOs, to assess the needs of, and to provide aid to, the newly arrived Rohingya refugees;

(d) Measures to investigate allegations of sexual violence of Rohingya women and girls, and facilitate their access to the formal justice system.

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to continue to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Government of Bangladesh, with a view to assisting it to implement the Convention effectively.

Yours sincerely,



Anastasia Crickley
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination