



DEBATE PACK

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Rohingya crisis

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The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

1. Summary

Since the outbreak of violence in Rakhine state in Burma in August 2017 over [600,000 Rohingya refugees](#) have crossed the border into Bangladesh, creating what the UN Secretary-General has [described](#) as a “devastating humanitarian situation”. The US Secretary of State [said](#) the situation in northern Rakhine State “constitutes ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya”. 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 Sang 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 £47 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.

On 23 November 2017 Burma and Bangladesh signed an agreement to repatriate refugees, though Burma gave no details on how many would be allowed to return home. Repatriations are expected to begin within two months.

2. Press Articles

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

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Rights Groups Say Outside Monitors Needed for Rohingya Return to Myanmar

US News and World Report
24 November 2017

Burma and Bangladesh sign deal to repatriate 'hundreds of thousands' of Rohingya Muslim refugees

Independent
Harriet Agerholm
23 November 2017

U.S. declares attacks on Burmese Rohingya Muslims 'ethnic cleansing'

Washington Post
Carol Morello and Max Bearak
22 November 2017

Rohingya treatment amounts to 'dehumanising apartheid' - Amnesty report

SkyNews.com
21 November 2017

In Bangladesh, UN agency Goodwill Ambassador Kristin Davis urges action for Rohingya refugee children

UN News Centre
20 November 2017

Burmese army clears itself of raping and murdering Rohingya Muslims after 'internal investigation'

Independent
Simon Cameron-Moore
14 November 2017

Rohingya crisis: Calls for Britain to investigate 'crimes against humanity'

SkyNews.com
Bethany Minelle
14 November 2017

UK 'shirking responsibility' on Rohingya crisis

SkyNews.com
Dominic Waghorn
14 November 2017

APEC/ASEAN: Prioritize Rohingya Crisis

Human Rights Watch
9 November 2017

Rohingya crisis may be driving Aung San Suu Kyi closer to generals

Guardian
Poppy McPherson
29 October 2017

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

Telegraph Online
Nicola Smith
12 October 2017

Mystery surrounds deaths of Hindu villagers in Myanmar mass graves

Guardian
Shaikh Azizur Rahman
12 October 2017

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

Independent
Shehab Khan
12 October 2017

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

Guardian
11 October 2017

Bangladesh carving out forest land to shelter desperate Rohingya

Reuters
Ruma Paul
5 October 2017

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

Guardian
4 October 2017

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

The Irrawaddy
28 September 2017

The Misunderstood Roots of Burma's Rohingya Crisis

The Atlantic
Krishnadev Calamur
25 September 2017

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

Spectator
23 September 2017

Aung San Suu Kyi defends handling of Rohingya crisis

Financial Times
John Reed
19 September 2017

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

Washington Post
Joshua Kurlantzick
15 September 2017

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

South China Morning Post
Nehginpao Kipgen
11 September 2017

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
Peter Osborne
4 September 2017

3. Press Releases

Efforts To Address Burma's Rakhine State Crisis

Rex W. Tillerson

US State Department

22 November 2017

I visited Naypyitaw, Burma on November 15, where I met separately with State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. I reaffirmed the United States' strong commitment to Burma's successful democratic transition as the elected government strives to implement reforms, bring peace and reconciliation to the nation, and resolve a devastating crisis in Rakhine State. Our first priority is to relieve the intolerable suffering faced by so many. In response to the dire situation, I announced last week an additional \$47 million in humanitarian assistance for those affected by the Rakhine State crisis, bringing the total amount spent in response to this crisis to more than \$87 million since August of this year.

Burma's response to this crisis is vital to determining the success of its transition to a more democratic society. As I said in Naypyitaw, the key test of any democracy is how it treats its most vulnerable and marginalized populations, such as the ethnic Rohingya and other minority populations. Burma's government and security forces must respect the human rights of all persons within its borders, and hold accountable those who fail to do so.

I reiterate the United States' condemnation of August 25 attacks on security forces by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA). Yet no provocation can justify the horrendous atrocities that have ensued. These abuses by some among the Burmese military, security forces, and local vigilantes have caused tremendous suffering and forced hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children to flee their homes in Burma to seek refuge in Bangladesh. After a careful and thorough analysis of available facts, it is clear that the situation in northern Rakhine state constitutes ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya.

Those responsible for these atrocities must be held accountable. The United States continues to support a credible, independent investigation to further determine all facts on the ground to aid in these processes of accountability. We have supported constructive action on the Rakhine crisis at the UN Security Council and in the UN General Assembly's Third Committee. The United States will also pursue accountability through U.S. law, including possible targeted sanctions.

We support the Burmese government's commitment to create the conditions necessary for all refugees and internally displaced people to return to their homes safely and voluntarily, and welcome recent exchanges between the governments of Burma and Bangladesh on repatriation. Support by Burma's military for these government efforts is crucial. This is a difficult and complex situation. Many stakeholders must work together to ensure progress.

Sexual violence abuses against the Rohingya in Burma
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
14 November 2017

Foreign & Commonwealth Office staff and the UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict visit Bangladesh to support survivors of sexual violence.

The PM's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon said:

The harrowing reports of mass rape and sexual violence against the Rohingya community people in Burma are deeply disturbing.

As well as rape, gang rape, invasive body searches, and murder, the reports suggest that evidence of these crimes is being deliberately destroyed to stop those responsible being brought to justice. These abuses are a clear human rights violation and must cease immediately.

The Head of Team for the FCO's Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI) visited the region alongside the UN to meet with survivors, support workers, and government officials. We will also shortly be sending two experts to Bangladesh to provide further support on responding to sexual violence, including on investigating and documenting these abhorrent crimes.

The international community have united come together to deliver a global response to the dire humanitarian situation and human rights abuses. We also acknowledge the Bangladeshi government have been instrumental in helping those most in need.

Background

The Head of Team for the Foreign & Commonwealth Office's (FCO's) Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative visited Bangladesh alongside the UN Secretary General's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Pramila Patten. They visited Dhaka and Cox's Bazar and met survivors, service providers and government officials.

The FCO is working with the Stabilisation Unit to deploy 2 Deployable Civilian Experts (DCE) to Bangladesh to conduct a needs assessment of the extent of reported sexual violence and service provision. The DCEs are experts in gender issues and criminal law, including sexual violence in conflict, they will look at the extent of reported incidents of sexual violence, services being provided to survivors and their families, identify gaps in service provision and make recommendations for the UK government. Part of the assessment will be a deep dive on investigation and documentation of sexual violence.

The PSVI Team of Experts (ToE) was established in 2012 to strengthen the specialist capabilities that the UK is able to bring to bear on these issues. The ToE is owned by the FCO and housed in the Stabilisation Unit, forming part of their wider Civilian Stabilisation Group, which is a roster of Deployable Civilian Experts. The ToE currently consists of criminal lawyers, policing advisers, gender based violence experts, international investigating officers, training experts, psychosocial experts, social workers, and sexual offences examiners. Each deployment is tailored to local needs and circumstances.

The ToE does not collect evidence or investigate sexual violence. Instead the deployments are designed to complement and reinforce the work of others, including governments UN and NGOs. Since November 2012 we have deployed 74 experts to 13 countries in support of 22 projects. Read [further information about the ToE](#).

Burma is a priority country for PSVI and Women, Peace and Security including in the [UK's National Action Plan and Implementation Plan](#) which runs from 2014 to 2017. The National Action Plan enables the government to articulate our priorities on Women, Peace and Security and co-ordinate implementation of our work at the national level.

Foreign Secretary comment on UN Security Council Presidential Statement on Burma
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
6 November 2017

The United Nations Security Council has agreed a Presidential Statement on the situation in Burma.

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said:

I am pleased that today (6 November) the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has spoken with one voice on the appalling situation in Rakhine State, Burma. More than 600,000 Rohingya refugees have fled to Bangladesh, amidst horrifying reports of gross human rights violations. The humanitarian situation remains desperate.

The UK has repeatedly called on the Burmese security forces to protect all civilians and act now to stop the violence and allow humanitarian aid to urgently reach all those who need it. The UNSC has today joined us in that call, with this historic Presidential Statement on Burma.

I am encouraged to see State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi making important steps forward, including establishing a domestic body to deliver humanitarian and development assistance in Rakhine, and making efforts to promote interfaith and intercommunal harmony, including a recent visit to northern Rakhine. The UK will

be watching closely to ensure that the Burmese security forces do not attempt to frustrate these efforts.

I also applaud the work of the Bangladesh government, which is working hard to ensure the refugees receive urgent aid. The recent agreements between Burma and Bangladesh are welcome, and I hope they can now make swift progress on the voluntary, safe, and dignified returns of refugees to Burma. The Burmese security forces must take steps to ensure the right conditions are in place for refugees to return.

UK leads international support for Rohingya crisis at landmark conference

Department for International Development / Foreign and Commonwealth Office

23 October 2017

The UK has led the way in providing support for the Rohingya crisis – the world’s fastest growing humanitarian catastrophe – by committing a further £12 million.

The UK has increased its own support for innocent families who have been forced to flee relentless violence in Burma and make the treacherous journey to Bangladesh to find refuge. This is an increase from £35 million to £47 million (US \$63 million) committed since the end of August, including £5 million to match the generous donations of the UK public to the Disaster Emergency Committee appeal.

Ahead of the landmark international pledging conference, which took place in Geneva today (Monday 23 October 2017), the UK had given more than a third of the overall money donated by the international community and the International Development Secretary Priti Patel called on other countries to follow the UK’s lead and step up their support.

At the conference today countries including Sweden, Australia, Denmark and the UAE, have in total pledged over \$300 million. This reaches over half of the total funding required to meet urgent humanitarian needs as set out in the UN appeal. Countries are continuing to pledge.

International Development Secretary Priti Patel said:

The international community has followed the UK’s lead and stepped up support which is absolutely vital to save the lives of victims of the world’s fastest growing humanitarian crisis.

UK aid is helping hundreds of thousands of people who have lost everything and our further support announced today will relieve the suffering of thousands more.

Ethnic cleansing, sexual violence, starvation and the murder of children have no place in our world. Today's pledges are only just the start, and the world cannot afford to wait as innocent men, women and children continue to lose their lives.

Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Mark Field said:

During my recent visits to Burma and Bangladesh, I saw for myself some of the communities which have been so badly damaged by what is happening in Burma.

I am delighted to be in Geneva to announce the UK's latest contribution of £12 million to the Burma crisis response. Alongside the £30 million we provided to meet the urgent humanitarian need, and the £5 million of public donations that the UK matched pound for pound for the Disasters Emergency Committee Appeal, the total contribution of the UK government is now £47 million.

I hope that the international community will continue to unite with the UK in its efforts, and help bring an end to this terrible humanitarian crisis.

Today's announcement of extra support builds on existing UK aid which is already helping to provide:

- Emergency food to 174,000 people;
- Lifesaving nutritional support to more than 60,000 children under-five and over 21,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women;
- Safe drinking water, emergency latrines and hygiene kits for more than 138,000 people;
- Essential items including soap, cooking utensils and water cans for over 131,000 people;
- Emergency shelter for over 130,000 people and support to make shelters more resilient to rain and heavy winds for 450,000 people as the cyclone season approaches;
- Access to female bathing cubicles and sanitary items for more than 35,000 girls and women;
- Counselling and psychological support for over 10,000 women suffering from the trauma of war and over 2,000 survivors of sexual violence;
- Medical help for over 50,000 pregnant women to give birth safely.

With UK aid support in Bangladesh, malnourished children on the brink of death are now able to eat, families who have been forced to live out in the open after their villages were burned are getting shelter and clean drinking water is helping stop the spread of disease.

Our existing work in the region meant that we were already in position to provide life-saving support when the crisis flared – without this, aid would have taken much longer to arrive.

The UK is also leading the charge to reform the humanitarian system, to ensure the international community responds efficiently and effectively to crises, pooling resources together rather than competing and working in isolation.

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.

**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, well 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

Rohingya People

21 Nov 2017 | 631 cc837-9

Asked by: Jessica Morden

3. What recent representations he has made to his counterpart in Myanmar on the treatment of the Rohingya people in that country. [901942]

Answering member: Boris Johnson | Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

I have made repeated representations, as the hon. Lady can imagine, to the Government of Burma, and particularly to Aung San Suu Kyi—I have now spoken to her three times—to urge the return of the refugees. We secured the first UN Security Council statement on Burma in a decade, and I know that is a subject in which you take a particular interest, Mr Speaker. Burma must heed these calls from the international community and take the necessary steps that we have set out.

Asked by: Jessica Morden

Three months on from the start of the current crisis, we all continue to be shocked and horrified by the tragic stories we see of the plight of the Rohingya people fleeing to Bangladesh and by the scale of the crisis. EU member states, as well as the US Congress, are reportedly considering reimposing some sanctions against Myanmar's leaders. What discussions have Ministers had on that with EU member states, and what will be the Government's position?

Answering member: Boris Johnson

I have indeed raised this already, as the hon. Lady can imagine, with our European friends and partners. At the Foreign Affairs Council on 16 October we got agreement around the table that we will suspend Burmese military visits and review all defence co-operation. We got a further agreement to consider additional measures if the situation does not improve, and we will indeed now be doing so.

Asked by: Mike Wood

16. The UN has made it clear that Muslims in Rakhine state should receive a legal status that allows them to lead a normal life and, in time, be granted full nationality, with freedom of movement and access to labour markets, education and health services. Will my right hon. Friend continue to press those demands through the United Nations and directly with the Burmese authorities? [901955]

Answering member: Boris Johnson

My hon. Friend is absolutely right that that is critical. If those 608,000 people are to have any confidence about the prospect of their return, they must have clarity about their citizenship and their treatment when they come back to Burma and Rakhine. That is why the Annan plan makes it absolutely clear that there must be citizenship rights and investment in the development of equal treatment for all of Rakhine's ethnic groups.

Asked by: Tracy Brabin

21. This morning Amnesty International released a report highlighting repression and rights violations against the Rohingya people every single day. Amnesty compares Myanmar to an open-air prison. Can the Minister tell us whether the Government will support sanctions against Myanmar? What discussions has he had about that with other member states? [901960]

Answering member: Boris Johnson

In answer to the hon. Member for Newport East (Jessica Morden), I detailed what we have been doing with our EU friends and partners. We have secured agreement to suspend military visits, and we will review matters with our friends and partners as things develop.

Mr Speaker

I would have called the hon. Member for Cheadle (Mary Robinson) if she had been standing, but she was not, so I did not, but now she is, so I will.

Asked by: Mary Robinson

17. Thank you, Mr Speaker. Since the outbreak of the recent shocking violence in Rakhine more than 600,000 Rohingya refugees have crossed the border into neighbouring Bangladesh, where there is an urgent need for additional land for shelters to provide life-saving services and aid. In the light of the desperate situation, what support are the Government offering to the Bangladeshi Government so that refugees can have access to the basic essentials of existence, such as clean water, medicine and shelter? [901956]

Answering member: Boris Johnson

My hon. Friend is entirely right. The UK is one of the biggest participants, having been either the biggest or second biggest donor to the humanitarian crisis in Bangladesh. We should all congratulate the Government of Bangladesh on the forbearance and energy they have put into coping with this appalling crisis. The UK is contributing £47 million, which has helped to provide for 174,000 people. We have provided safe water and sanitation for more than 138,000, and emergency shelter for 130,000; we have provided aid, counselling and psychological support that will reach more than 10,000 women suffering from trauma and 2,000 survivors of sexual violence; and we have provided medical help for more than 50,000 pregnant women to give birth safely. That is a record of help and support for the crisis of which the whole House can be proud.

Asked by: Yasmin Qureshi

There has been potent evidence of the fact that ethnic cleansing and genocide is taking place in Burma, so what actions or steps have our Government, with the United Nations, taken to bring about prosecution in the international courts of the Buddhist monks and the generals for carrying out ethnic cleansing?

Answering member: Boris Johnson

I agree very much with the hon. Lady that, unless the refugees are allowed to return, this crisis—this purge—will indeed satisfy the definition of ethnic cleansing. As for genocide, I am afraid we have

recently received evidence of a very troubling kind, and we will make sure that such testimony of what has been taking place is collated and used so that the proper judicial authorities can determine whether it answers to the definition of genocide. As she will know, genocide is a strict legal term, and we hesitate to deploy it without a proper judicial decision.

Asked by: Nusrat Ghani

The Burmese military have produced an absurd report claiming that not a single innocent life has been lost and that they have not been involved in any violence against the Rohingya. Does my right hon. Friend agree that no whitewash report will cover up all the mounting evidence of the atrocities carried out against the Rohingya?

Answering member: Boris Johnson

I absolutely agree with my hon. Friend that it is vital that the Burmese Government acknowledge the scale of what is happening and the horror with which events are being greeted around the world. For many years, the world has looked to Aung San Suu Kyi as a great moral leader. We still salute her for her struggle for democracy in the face of the generals, but it is vital now that she stands up to condemn what is happening and brings the nation together. I am sorry to say that so far the Burmese Government have failed to do that.

Burma: Rohingya
21 Nov 2017 | 113591

Asked by: Richard Burden

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what measures are in place to provide support and treatment to Rohingya women and children who are victims of or witness to sexual violence.

Answering member: Mark Field | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The British Government is funding the provision of medical services, counselling and psychological support to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh who have either witnessed or are survivors of sexual violence themselves. This support is being delivered through UN agencies and the NGO Action Against Hunger. The UK is also supporting UNICEF initiatives that help survivors of gender-based violence identify and access the support they need, and create 30 child-friendly spaces in the refugee camps. The UK is also funding the deployment of an official to coordinate the UN gender-based violence response in Cox's Bazar, and seeking ways to expand the gender-based violence response in coordination with aid agencies and other partners.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has also sent two Deployable Civilian Experts to Bangladesh on 14 November, with support from the cross-Whitehall Stabilisation Unit. They will carry out an assessment of the extent of reported sexual violence, the current response to the needs of victims of gender based violence in Bangladesh, and identify gaps in service provision and provide recommendations for the UK. They

will also conduct a thorough review of the investigation and documentation of sexual violence, through use of the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict and make recommendations on possible UK support in this area.

In Burma the UK continues to press for greater humanitarian access to Northern Rakhine.

Burma: Rohingya
21 Nov 2017 | 113590

Asked by: Richard Burden

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent representations he has made to the Government of Burma on allegations of mass rape in Rohingya women and children in Rakhine State.

Answering member: Mark Field | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Foreign Secretary has repeatedly been clear about the need for the Burmese authorities to end the violence in Rakhine. This includes sexual violence. He has made these calls in telephone conversations with State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi on 7 and 17 September, and 21 October; and to the Burmese National Security Advisor and Deputy Foreign Minister at a meeting of foreign ministers he convened at the UN on 18 September.

I met Burma's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs on 20 September at the UN and State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi in Burma on 27 September, and reiterated the same messages. Our Ambassador and Embassy officials in Rangoon have regularly raised concerns with Burmese Ministers, most recently with the Defence Minister on 31 October.

Lord Ahmad made a statement at the Human Rights Council on 11 September which made clear the UK strongly condemned the violence in Rakhine, and called on all parties to de-escalate tensions and address the humanitarian crisis.

Bangladesh: Rohingya
20 Nov 2017 | 113258

Asked by: Kate Osamor

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, on what date her Department's Office in Bangladesh became aware of the possibility of an influx of Rohingya refugees to that country; and what steps it took in response to that awareness.

Answering member: Penny Mordaunt | Department: Department for International Development

The DFID office in Bangladesh was aware that rising tensions Rakhine State that could lead to an influx of refugees in the week of 15 August. The UK was already providing support to Rohingya people and the communities that host them in Bangladesh long before the current influx began. This includes programming of £13.9 million since 2014.

In late August, our daily monitoring showed that numbers of new arrivals were rising. We released £5 million additional funding to meet urgent needs on 8 September. Since then we have announced a further £42 million, bringing the total to £47 million since the start of the crisis. We are providing food, medical help, safe water and sanitation, shelter, nutrition and psychological support to Rohingya refugees.

**Burma: Rohingya
17 Nov 2017 | HL2850**

Asked by: Lord Hague of Richmond

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Burma regarding current events in Rakhine state.

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

In recent weeks, the British Government has made a number of representations to the Burmese government. We continue to make clear the need to end all violence in Rakhine, including sexual violence, to ensure the safe return of refugees, to allow humanitarian assistance to all communities in Rakhine, to enable access for the UN Fact-Finding Mission and to implement the recommendations of Kofi Annan's Rakhine Advisory Commission. The Foreign Secretary raised these issues directly with State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi when he spoke to her on 7 and 14 September and on 21 October.

The Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific met Burma's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs on 20 September in New York and State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi on 27 September in Burma, and reiterated the same messages. Minister Field also raised our deep concern about the situation in Rakhine with the Burmese Ambassador when they met on 31 October.

Our Ambassador in Rangoon has also made a number of representations, most recently with the Burmese Defence Minister whom he met on 1 November.

Burma: Human Rights
17 Nov 2017 | 111569

Asked by: David Lammy

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Rakhine State, Myanmar.

Answering member: Mark Field | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We continue to be deeply concerned about the human rights situation in Rakhine State following the outbreak of violence there in August. While we believe military operations have largely ceased, reports of attacks by vigilantes continue and hundreds of thousands of Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh as a result of the security forces' actions. The Rohingya are seeking refuge because they feel intimidated, they lack humanitarian support and they continue to lack access to livelihoods. There have been reports of serious human rights violations, including sexual violence and extra-judicial killings in Rakhine State.

The current situation emphasises the importance of addressing the underlying issues in Rakhine. The UK believes implementation of Kofi Annan's Rakhine Advisory Commission's recommendations is the best way to achieve longer term resolution of the problems in Rakhine which face all communities there. The UK has been working intensively with international partners to bring pressure to bear on the Burmese government to meet this goal, most recently with the agreement of a Presidential Statement at the UNSC on 6 November. This called on the Burmese government to address the root causes of the conflict, including through the implementation of Kofi Annan's recommendations, for the safe return of the Rohingya refugees back into Rakhine, a transparent investigation of human rights violations, including those of sexual violence, as well as cooperation of the government with UN organisations and access for humanitarian and media organisations to Rakhine

Burma: Rohingya
16 Nov 2017 | HL2849

Asked by: Lord Hague of Richmond

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken at the UN Security Council regarding the Rohingya people.

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

The British Government played a central role in the Presidential Statement on Rakhine agreed by the UN Security Council (UNSC) on 6 November. The Statement calls, among other things, for the safe return of the Rohingya refugees to Rakhine, a transparent investigation of human rights violations, including those of sexual violence, as well as cooperation of the Government of Burma with UN organisations and access for humanitarian and media organisations to Rakhine. The Statement also calls on the Government of Burma to address the root

causes of the conflict, including through the implementation of the Rakhine Advisory Commission recommendations.

This comes as a result of several weeks of British Government activity at the UN Security Council. We have raised Burma four times since 25 August. On 13 September we secured the first agreed UNSC press statement on Burma in eight years. On 28 September we instigated the first open session of the Security Council on Burma in almost a decade. The Security Council then discussed Burma on 13 October. We will continue to work to ensure continuing P5 unity on the gravity of the situation in Burma.

Burma: Rohingya
16 Nov 2017 | HL2848

Asked by: Lord Hague of Richmond

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative experts have been deployed to Bangladesh in response to the atrocities committed against the Rohingya people.

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

The Head of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s PSVI Team recently visited Bangladesh, including Dhaka and Cox's Bazar, with the UN Secretary General's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Pramila Patten. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG)'s mission will meet survivors, service providers, government officials and security services. The FCO, working with the Stabilisation Unit, is deploying two Deployable Civilian Experts to Bangladesh this month to conduct a needs assessment. These experts in gender issues and criminal law, including sexual violence in conflict, will build on the SRSG and Head of PSVI's assessment to look at the extent of reported incidents of sexual violence, services being provided, identify gaps and make recommendations for the UK Government. Part of the assessment will be a deep dive on investigation and documentation of sexual violence.

Burma: Rohingya
08 Nov 2017 | HL2528

Asked by: The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial and practical assistance they have given to aid the Rohingya Muslim refugees in Bangladesh; and what further assistance they intend to give.

Answering member: Lord Bates | Department: Department for International Development

The UK is the largest bilateral donor to the Rohingya refugee crisis, and in addition to the £35m the UK had committed since the start of this crisis, on October 23rd the UK announced a further £12m of support - bringing the UK total to £47m. This funding is already providing food to

174,000 people, safe water and sanitation for more than 138,000 people and emergency shelter for over 130,000 people. In addition, the new funding will allow emergency nutrition support to reach more than 60,000 children under five, counselling and psychological support to reach over 10,000 women suffering from the trauma of war and over 2,000 survivors of sexual violence, and will provide medical help for over 50,000 pregnant women to give birth safely. We will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Burma: Rohingya
07 Nov 2017 | HL2486

Asked by: Lord Ahmed

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have raised the issue of Rohingya communities at the UN Security Council; and what action has been taken against the perpetrators of ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity in Myanmar.

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

The UK has played a leading role in co-ordinating international efforts on Rakhine. We have raised Burma three times at the UN Security Council (UNSC) since the most recent outbreak of violence on 25 August. On 13 September we secured the first agreed UNSC press elements on Burma in eight years. The Security Council also discussed Burma in an open session on 28 September.

The UN Security Council has called for the Burmese authorities to stop the violence and allow humanitarian access. The voluntary and safe return of refugees is a central part of the ongoing discussions in which we are engaged at the UN Security Council.

The UK continues to call for an end to the violence, and to prevent escalation, irrespective of whether incidents fit the definition of specific international crimes.

We shall continue to keep up the pressure on Burma's 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.

Burma: Rohingya
07 Nov 2017 | HL2438

Asked by: Baroness Helic

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have received legal advice from the Attorney General on whether the violence in Rakhine State constitutes ethnic cleansing; and if so, what assessment they have made of that advice.

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

We have not sought or received advice from the Attorney General on whether the violence in Rakhine State constitutes ethnic cleansing.

More than 608,000 Rohingya have fled into Bangladesh as a result of Burmese military and militia violence since 25 August. This increasingly seems to be a case of ethnic cleansing. As a consequence the international community needs to see these people able to return to their homes in Burma safely.

**Burma: Peace Negotiations
02 Nov 2017 | 110372**

Asked by: Chris Williamson

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if the Government will make representations to the UN's Security Council on introducing a resolution that calls for an end to the military campaign and violence in Rakhine State and demands (a) immediate and unimpeded access for international humanitarian organisations to populations in need in Rakhine State, (b) immediate and unhindered access for international monitors and journalists to Rakhine State, (c) access by the UN mandated fact-finding mission to Myanmar to carry out its work unhindered, by providing visas to the members of the mission and full access for the mission to meet civilian and military officials and (d) the Myanmar authorities return all Rohingya refugees and displaced people to their homes and places of origin in Myanmar safely, voluntarily and with dignity.

Answering member: Mark Field | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We have raised Burma three times at the UN Security Council since 25 August. This has delivered a clear message from the international community that the Burmese authorities must urgently protect civilians, allow refugees to return and allow full humanitarian access. We are now discussing further Security Council action with fellow members.

The UK is using all available channels to emphasise the urgent need for humanitarian organisations to be able to work safely in northern and central Rakhine and meet the immense needs on the ground. The Red Cross in Burma is currently the only aid organisation permitted to provide humanitarian support in northern Rakhine. The UK has provided £1 million to support its operation.

We have been clear with the Burmese authorities there must now be unhindered access to Rakhine State for humanitarian organisations as well as UN observers and journalists. While we welcome recent access for media and diplomats to Rakhine State, we continue to urge the Burmese authorities and the military particularly to allow greater access.

We have also been clear with the Burmese authorities that they should enable full access for the UN Fact Finding Mission. At the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva in September, we supported the decision to

extend to September 2018 the mandate of the Mission to look into serious human rights concerns in Rakhine. Along with international partners, we will continue to press the Burmese government to allow access for the Mission.

The voluntary and safe return of refugees is a central part of the ongoing discussions we are engaged in at the UN Security Council. The Burmese and Bangladeshi authorities are discussing a refugee return process. We are pressing both governments to agree this quickly and ensure it will be implemented in a manner consistent with the UN principles of voluntary and safe return.

Burma: Rohingya
01 Nov 2017 | HL2158

Asked by: Baroness Uddin

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Myanmar regarding its reported complicity in the torture, rape and ethnic cleansing of Rohingya people.

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

The Foreign Secretary has been clear about the need for the Burmese authorities to end the violence in Rakhine. He has made these points in telephone conversations with State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi on 7 and 17 September and with the Burmese National Security Advisor and Deputy Foreign Minister at a meeting of foreign ministers he convened at the UN on 18 September.

The Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific met Burma's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs on 20 September at the UN and State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi in Burma on 27 September, and reiterated the same messages.

The UK has led international efforts on Rakhine. The UK has raised Burma three times at the UN Security Council (UNSC) since the outbreak of violence. The UN Security Council has called for the Burmese authorities to stop the violence and allow humanitarian access. We are actively engaged with other Council members to work on further necessary action.

Burma: Rohingya
01 Nov 2017 | HL2156

Asked by: Baroness Uddin

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of efforts to prevent and address sexual violence in Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh, and of the processes in place to ascertain and record the culpability of perpetrators.

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

Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development (DFID) colleagues are urgently assessing the UN-led sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) response on the ground, including the level of identification and outreach, clinical management and what additional support the UK may usefully provide. DFID have funded the deployment of an international expert to UNFPA in Cox's Bazar to lead the Gender-based violence Sub-Sector, part of the UNHCR-led Protection Sector of the international humanitarian response. We are in dialogue with the Coordinator to better understand the level of incidence, response and coordination and associated challenges.

There are few agencies on the ground with the capacity to clinically manage and support cases of sexual violence. In part this has been due to a lack of resources but a more significant factor is the lack of agency capacity. Médecins Sans Frontières has the single most important capability for clinical management of rape. UNFPA also remains a significant actor. The International Organization for Migration, UNHCR and partners are also providing care to survivors through its health centres across the camps and spontaneous settlements. Their focus is currently on outreach and identification of cases for clinical management and support, though population mobility is rendering this challenging. We are urgently discussing with the UN Secretary General's Special Representative and humanitarian organisations in situ capacity for evidence gathering and how the UK can support this work too, including the possible deployment of experts from the UK.

Burma: International Assistance
25 Oct 2017 | 108634

Asked by: Chris Law

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what representations she has made to her counterpart in the Myanmar Government on ensuring unhindered aid access to all areas of the Rakhine state.

Answering member: Alistair Burt | Department: Department for International Development

The UK has been leading the international response to the Rohingya crisis, and I have made repeated calls for humanitarian access. On my behalf, DFID officials met Burmese Government ministers to discuss constraints on assistance on the 4th, 14th, 22nd, 27th and 28th of September, and the 12th of October, and DFID met Rakhine state ministers to discuss access constraints on 30th August, and 26th September. We have ensured that language on humanitarian access has been included in UN Security Council discussions on Rakhine. Foreign Office Minister Mark Field was in Burma at the end of last month, where he raised access to both the Rakhine State Chief Minister and to the State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi.

Rohingya People**17 Oct 2017 | 629 c706-7****Asked by: Gerald Jones**

9. What recent representations he has made to his Myanmar counterpart on the treatment of the Rohingya people. [901179]

Asked by: Gavin Shuker

12. What recent representations he has made to his Myanmar counterpart on the treatment of the Rohingya people. [901183]

Answering member: Mark Field (Minister for Asia and the Pacific)

The Foreign Secretary spoke to Aung San Suu Kyi on 7 and 17 September. I met her in Naypyidaw in Burma on 27 September, and the Deputy Foreign Minister at the UN General Assembly on 20 September. We called for an end to the violence in Rakhine state, a safe return for refugees, full humanitarian access, and, most importantly, implementation in full of the Annan Commission's recommendations.

Asked by: Gerald Jones

We are seeing the heartbreaking pictures and hearing the tragic stories of the plight of the Rohingya people on a daily basis now. Will the Minister increase his representations? Specifically in the light of the evidence of the atrocities by the Myanmar armed forces, does he feel that the decision to lift the EU sanctions against the military regime was premature?

Answering member: Mark Field

I thank the hon. Gentleman for his thoughtful question. What is going on in Rakhine is a human tragedy and a humanitarian catastrophe. When the UN lifted sanctions in 2011, it was trying to encourage a road towards democracy, which has obviously happened with the election that took place only 18 months ago. With hindsight, one might argue that these sanctions were lifted prematurely. However, a lot of Burma watchers would say that the sanctions did not have a huge effect. There was not a great deal of money from the Burmese military in western bank accounts in the way that applies, for example, to sanctions for Russia, China and elsewhere.

Asked by: Gavin Shuker

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights described what is happening in Myanmar as

“a textbook example of ethnic cleansing”.

I happen to agree with him. Does the Minister?

Answering member: Mark Field

As I said, it is a humanitarian catastrophe out there. Sadly, this increasingly appears to be an accurate description of the situation. It is now essential for the Burmese authorities to enact the positive measures that were announced by the State Counsellor, Aung San Suu Kyi, on Thursday evening. They include the establishment of a new civilian-led body to oversee refugee returns and the development of Rakhine into a state in which all communities can live together sustainably.

Asked by: Jim Shannon

Terrible acts of brutality and violence have been carried out against the Rohingya people. Is it the Minister's intention to ensure that the Burmese army will be charged with war crimes for what they have done?

Answering member: Mark Field

That is a matter for the UN. The issue of genocide is a legal one and it will be determined at UN level. I understand that there is some frustration and a perception that diplomatic advancement has been slow. We have taken a lead in this. There have been two closed meetings and an open meeting of the UN Security Council. The truth is that a headlong rush to get a Security Council resolution along these sorts of lines would most likely end up being vetoed by the Chinese or the Russians. We need to move together as an international community, recognising that these serious crimes must be properly dealt with.

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.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

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?

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

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.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

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.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

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?

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

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?

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

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.

**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 Mawlaikya in Rakhine State at the end of last week.

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.

5. Other Parliamentary material

5.1 Debates

Burma: Rohingya

26 October 2017 | 785 cc1028-1043

The Rohingya and the Myanmar Government

18 October 2017 | 629 cc764-812

5.2 Urgent questions

Violence in Rakhine State [Extract]

05 September 2017 | 628 cc24-41

5.3 Early Day Motions

Papal visit to Burma and Bangladesh

EDM 516 (session 2017-19)

7 November 2017

Stephen Gethins

That this House notes the forthcoming visits by Pope Francis to Burma and Bangladesh; recognises the important contribution that the Catholic Church, as well as other religious organisations and communities, make in both countries by promoting interfaith relations, human rights and environmental protections, supporting peace-building and development, assisting displaced people, including the hundreds of thousands of refugees from Rakhine State in Myanmar, and combating human trafficking; recalls the recent visits of Cardinal Charles Maung Bo and Cardinal Patrick D'Rozario as important moments for diaspora communities and Catholics in the UK; commends the works of all Christians and those of other faith groups working to improve the lives of those in Burma and Bangladesh; and sends its best wishes to all the peoples there on this historic occasion.

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.

5.4 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.]

6. Press Articles

Library Briefing papers

[Bangladesh: October 2017 update](#), Commons Briefing paper CBP-7452, 25 October 2017

[Support for Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh](#), Lords Briefing pack LBP-2017-0086, 20 October 2017

[The persecution of the Rohingya by the Burmese \(Myanmar\) Government](#), Commons Debate pack CDP-2017-0185, 16 October 2017

International Development Committee – Inquiry

[DFID's work on Bangladesh, Burma and the Rohingya crisis inquiry](#)
Speaking at the Tuesday 17 October Commons debate on “The persecution of the Rohingya by the Myanmar Government”, the Chair of the International Development Committee announced an inquiry into DFID’s work in Bangladesh and Burma that would start by looking at the UK’s response to the Rohingya crisis.

This page includes transcripts of oral and written evidence.

Foreign Affairs Committee – Reports and correspondence

[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

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

[IRIN News, Myanmar](#)

[Network Myanmar](#)

Miscellaneous

Jacques P Leider, [Rohingya: The name, the movement and the quest for identity](#), Myanmar Egress and the Myanmar Peace Center, January 2014

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

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

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