



In The Name Of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

المعهد الإسلامي في تورنتو

Islamic Institute of Toronto

Education for Virtuous Living

## Rohingya: World court orders prevention of genocide

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Hague, The Netherlands, has recently ordered the Myanmar government to stop the genocide of Rohingya Muslims. The ICJ is the highest legal authority in the world and this ruling could bring about strong international pressure that could lead to a major breakthrough for the Rohingya people.

Three years ago, over three quarters of a million Rohingya Muslims had to flee Myanmar with only the clothing on their back as a military offensive was unleashed against them. This led to horrific scenes of rape, murder and the destruction of property. The world stood in horror as Myanmar government denied the charges of genocide and even their award-winning leader Aung San Suu Kyi testified at the ICJ in the Hague that nothing significant had happened.

The ICJ has ruled the following:

- No acts of genocide with genocidal intent will be committed.
- Myanmar's army must ensure that it doesn't engage in these acts.
- All evidence of genocidal acts must be preserved for the ongoing case against Myanmar.
- Myanmar government must report back after four months to the ICJ to prove to the international community that it is living up to what has been imposed on it.

This major ruling has come about after international pressure was applied to the leading international legal bodies and people around the world demonstrated and showed support for the beleaguered Rohingya people. The case was brought to the ICJ by the President of Gambia and argued successfully by a number of lawyers including Canadian professor and lawyer Payam Akhavan.

On the ground at Cox's Bazaar and around the world, this development is being hailed as a momentous event and a source of hope for the future. The Rohingya Muslims are finally feeling that the world is recognizing their plight. Despite this joy, the reality of the actual effectiveness of the ruling has many people worried. The Court's decision is legally binding



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on paper but unenforceable in practical terms. It is an emergency injunction to stop murder, rape, destruction of property and prevention of access to medicine but the Myanmar government could refuse to implement it.

In addition to this there has been no response from the Myanmar leadership and there are still over 600,000 Rohingya Muslims left in the Myanmar! This necessitates the International Community, especially, the Muslim world, to remain vigilant and prepared to keep the pressure on the Myanmar government. If nothing is done, the case could even be taken to the U.N. Security Council for major political or economic action.

Muslims must keep aware of the ongoing crisis, constantly update the community and continue to ask Almighty Allah to relieve our suffering Brothers and Sisters in their struggle for dignity, safety and a peaceful place to live.

Dr. Abdullah Hakim Quick

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Barbados, W.I.