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September 29, 2017

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Dear Right Honourable Prime Minister Trudeau,

As Members of Parliament, we write to you to express our deep concern over the calamity occurring in the Rakhine state of Myanmar. Along with our fellow Canadians, we are disheartened by the oppression the Rohingya Muslims are facing, and the lack of protection of human rights in Myanmar.

Since inhumane and barbaric violence erupted in Myanmar against the Rohingya people over four weeks ago, thousands of people have been killed and an estimated 480,000 civilians have fled from their homes, neglected of their basic human rights. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has deemed this “a textbook example of ethnic cleansing.”

On Sunday, September 24, we convened at the Islamic Foundation of Toronto where over 300 residents, advocates and community members gathered to express their outrage. They called for a cessation of the violence and a return of the Rohingya to their homeland. They also called on Canada to increase its humanitarian aid and to further intervene in the crisis.

These concerned Canadians have asked our government to take a leadership role to address the crisis in Myanmar. Below are the actions they have suggested:

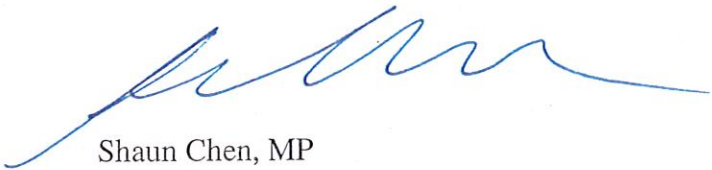
- Condemn in the strongest terms Canada’s outrage over the killing, abuses and violence against the Rohingya;
- Advocate to grant United Nations’ observers, as well as humanitarian aid workers, parliamentarians and the international media, access to the affected region;
- Push for an international ban on arms sales to Myanmar and any states which may be trading arms with Myanmar;
- Consider reinstating Canada’s previous sanctions against Myanmar;

- Increase Canada's humanitarian assistance to support Rohingya refugees in Myanmar and Bangladesh;
- Provide government matching of dollar-to-dollar in donations made by Canadians to our partners in Bangladesh and Myanmar;
- Help resettle into Canada any Rohingya refugees, as they are currently stateless and not recognized as citizens by Myanmar;
- Consider the possibility of multinational forces aimed at restoring peace and stability in the region;
- Strongly support the eventual, peaceful resettlement of villages; and
- Voice the need for a war crimes tribunal to hold the perpetrators to account.

Our willingness as a government to take action now will demonstrate our support for ethnic minorities in Myanmar, a vital step in line with our country's strong commitment to human rights and justice. The Rohingya people deserve inclusion, safety and security, and Canada can play an increasingly important role.

We thank you and your respective Ministers for the work our government has initiated to provide humanitarian assistance to the Rohingyas, and we look forward to working together with you to support Canada's efforts to do more.

Sincerely,



Shaun Chen, MP
Scarborough North



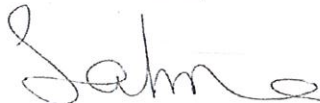
Gary Anandasangaree, MP
Scarborough-Rouge Park



Yasmin Ratansi, MP
Don Valley East



Rob Oliphant, MP
Don Valley West



Salma Zahid, MP
Scarborough Centre

Copy: Akbar Warsi, President, Islamic Foundation of Toronto