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Agenda item 2

Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

Written statement* submitted by Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[01 February 2020]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.

Item 2: ID on the report of the HC on the root causes of the human rights violations and abuses against the Rohingya Muslim minority and other minorities in Myanmar

Rohingya Muslims of Myanmar have been subject to continuing and systematic discrimination and hatred for decades. The recent violence against the minority reached its peak in 2017 military operations that left thousands of people dead and more than 700 thousand forcefully displaced.

According to the report of the Fact Finding mission on Myanmar, following the crimes taken place against the Rohingya Muslims in 2017, “the named senior generals of the Myanmar military should be investigated and prosecuted in an international criminal tribunal for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes”¹.

Ever since, there has not been any concrete steps inside Myanmar to improve the situation of Rohingya Muslims. The continuation of the flood of refugees leaving the country while Bangladesh has set up a voluntary return scheme for refugees proves that the situation is deteriorating for the minority group inside Myanmar.

Being over concerned with the threat of genocide to the 600 thousand Rohingya Muslims who still live in Myanmar, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV), calls on the government to take concrete steps to protect the life and all human rights of the minority, in line with its international commitments under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

ODVV urges Myanmar to:

Immediately cease all acts of violence against civilians especially the Rohingya in Myanmar. Seek international assistance to address "the complex situation in Rakhine state"² and find legitimate solutions to the long-standing problem.

Make serious and sustained efforts to effectively address the root causes of genocide including the long standing, systematic and widespread discrimination and marginalization against the Rohingya minority that make up about a third of the whole population of the country.

Abide by the legally binding rulings of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on protection of the Rohingya against genocide, and to present all the required reports to the ICJ until the Court announces its final decision on the case.

Fully co-operate with the International Criminal Court (ICC), as the international tribunal responsible for addressing the crime of genocide in order to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Fully co-operate with the Human Rights Council monitoring mechanisms including the Special Rapporteur on Myanmar and the International Investigative Mechanism on Myanmar (IIMM).

Also, ODVV reminds Myanmar of the necessity of bringing perpetrators of crimes against the Rohingya to justice and offering all victims with adequate compensation. Myanmar is called upon to fully cooperate with the ongoing proceedings in the International Criminal Court, and expand the Court’s jurisdiction through a formal declaration.

1 . A/HRC/39/64

2 . <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-50931565>.

ODVV calls on the international community to fully support Bangladesh so that the country will not refuse to accept the Rohingya Muslim refugees who are left helpless.
