

Human Rights Council: Submitting an NGO written statement

NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC (General, Special or Roster status) may submit written statements to the Human Rights Council (HRC).

The written statement is formatted and issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting NGO. English, Spanish and French versions can be published at this time.

In order for your statement to be published before the session, the deadline for submission is exactly two weeks prior to the start of a session. See the deadline on the web site. All submissions are final.

Please fill out **this** FORM and CHECKLIST to submit your statement and send it to the address indicated below. Your information goes after each arrow.

1. Please indicate the contact information for the representative submitting this statement (i.e. name, mobile, email) here: ➡ **Ulrich Delius, 0049-16095671403, asien@gfbv.de**
2. Indicate the Agenda item number (1-10) of statement, including the segment *: (Interactive Dialogue, ID; General Debate, GD; or Panel): ➡ Item # 3 Segment: SR on Myanmar
- 3.a) If this is an individual statement, indicate your organization's name as in the ECOSOC NGO database and indicate its consultative status in brackets (i.e. General, Special, or Roster). ➡ **Society for Threatened Peoples (Special Consultative Status)**
- or,
- 3.b) If this is a joint statement, list the main sponsor first, and then the co-sponsoring ECOSOC NGOs as they appear in the ECOSOC database and status (in brackets): Group all General NGOs first, group the Special second and group the Roster third. ➡
4. Indicate here any non-ECOSOC NGO(s) supporting this statement (they will appear as a footnote to the statement title): ➡
5. Indicate the exact TITLE for this statement here: ➡ **Situation of Rohingya and Kachin in Myanmar**

Please make sure that:

- This statement is in MS WORD document format (Font Times New Roman 10; no bold; no underline; no italics).
- Check word count: (Go to Tools, Word count, # of words) Indicate the length of text (excluding footnotes/endnotes) here: ➡ 529
 - NGOs in general consultative status are allowed 2,000 words
 - NGOs in special consultative status and on the roster are allowed 1,500 words
- Please use the Spell/grammar check on your text. (Go to Tools, Spelling & Grammar)
- If in doubt about Member States' names and correct UN terminology when referring to certain territories, use UNTERM database: <http://unterm.un.org/>
- Different language versions of one statement should be sent in the same email, but using **a separate form** for each.
- Email this document to: **hrcngo@ohchr.org**

* See the HRC Practical Guide for participants, page 9, which refers to segments in the session

PLEASE PASTE THE FINAL TEXT BELOW:



Situation of the Rohingya in Myanmar

The controversial Citizenship Law of 1982 continues to deny the 800,000 Rohingyas recognition as equal citizens. They suffer from discrimination by state agencies, restrictions on movement, land confiscations, forced labor, marriage; they are only allowed to have marry and have children by asking the authorities. They are denied birth certificates, suffer from illegal taxation and lack adequate medical coverage. In June 2012 violence escalated between the Muslim Rohingya and Buddhist Rakhine after a young Buddhist was killed by Muslims on 28 May 2012 and ten Muslim pilgrims were killed by Rakhine as a vengeance on 3 June 2012.

In October 2012 the violence escalated again when in four towns quarters where Rohingya reside were attacked and partly burned down. Shortly before, on 29 September 2012 12 Buddhist temples and 50 houses inhabited by Buddhists had been plundered and burnt down. The government of Bangladesh accused Rohingya refugees from Myanmar. It is now estimated that the Rohingyas were not responsible for the acts of 29 September 2012. However, violence ensued in Rakhine State: 4,800 houses and 17 mosques were destroyed. 109 people were killed. Instead of protecting people the security forces sided with Rakhine. The human rights organization Human Rights Watch accused the Myanmar authorities to play down the extent of violence and damage.

At least 115,000 Rohingya and Rakhine had to flee since June 2012. In the city of Sittwe entire neighborhoods have been ethnically cleansed. No Rohingya now live there any longer. The United Nations warned of catastrophic conditions in many refugee camps and called on the government of Myanmar to allow aid workers free access to the camps. But the situation of the Rohingya will not improve significantly as long as Myanmar's government is not willing to acknowledge the members of the minority as equal citizens. Several appeals from the ASEAN nations urge Burma to finally recognize the Rohingyas as citizens with equal rights.

Kachin State

Several villages were burnt down or attacked with grenades by soldiers of the Myanmar army in January 2013. Three civilians, among them a child, were killed when the army bombarded Laiza, a town near the border to the People's Republic of China. The army did not allow for a humanitarian corridor to the civilian population. Since the end of a ceasefire that had lasted 17 years in June of 2011 fights between the army and the Kachin group "Kachin Independence Army" escalated. More than 75,000 members of the ethnic minority fled. Soldiers of the army of Myanmar are accused of rape, arbitrary shootings of civilians, pillage and other war crimes in Kachin. Even after talks between the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) were held in the People's Republic of China in February 2013, fighting in Kachin continued.

Society for Threatened Peoples calls on the Human Rights Council to urge the Government of Myanmar to:

- End human rights violations against the Rohingya minority,
- Revoke the 1982 citizenship and grant the Rohingya full and equal citizenship,
- Allow for humanitarian aid to reach all refugees in the country,
- Work for a reconciliation with all ethnic minorities,
- Allow for an independent investigation into war crimes.