

3 October 2017

LAWASIA STATEMENT OF CONCERN REGARDING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN RAKHINE STATE OF MYANMAR

LAWASIA, the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific, expresses its deep concern over the reported inter-communal strife and conflict, persecution, and displacement of members of the Rohingya community in Myanmar, as well as the reported militant or insurgent attacks on Myanmar police posts and an army base.¹ The reports refer to alleged human rights abuses and the deterioration of the rule of law.² The longstanding and recurring cycle of violence and the displacement of people, the latest instance being in August 2017 and particularly in regard to the Rohingya, have created a humanitarian crisis not only in the Rakhine state of Myanmar, but also in the region.

LAWASIA views the crisis regarding both the situation in the Rakhine state and the Rohingya to be a serious human tragedy and human rights crisis. As an immediate priority, LAWASIA urges all parties concerned to work cooperatively and without delay toward a just and humanitarian resolution of the crisis.

Being cognisant of the 'Final Report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State' published in August 2017 by the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State,³ a body which is led by Kofi Annan and comprises a majority of national members of Myanmar, LAWASIA urges the Myanmar government to study the said report with a view to implementing the recommendations therein, or a substantial part thereof.⁴

LAWASIA urges its member organisations, where they are able to do so, to assist and provide pro bono legal assistance to the Rohingya refugees.



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¹ See e.g., CNBC (online) [25 August 2017](#), [29 August 2017](#); The Guardian (online) [27 August 2017](#); CNN (online) [1 September 2017](#), [20 September 2017](#); The New York Times (online) [17 September 2017](#); BBC (online) [21 September 2017](#); Aljazeera (online) [29 September 2017](#); [Final Report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State](#), August 2017.

² Ibid.

³ 'Towards a Peaceful, Fair and Prosperous Future for the People of Rakhine', [Final Report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State](#), Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, August 2017.

⁴ See especially, [Final Report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State](#), pp 62-63.