

THE ARAKAN PROJECT

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Submission to the UN Universal Periodic Review

**37th Session of the UPR Working Group
January/February 2021**

9 July 2020

A. INTRODUCTION

1. The Arakan Project (AP) is a human rights organization based in Thailand, which, since 1999, has specialized in monitoring and documenting the situation of the Rohingya community, a predominantly Muslim ethnic and linguistic minority in Rakhine State of Myanmar. The Arakan Project has regularly submitted its findings to relevant UN human rights bodies and mechanisms¹

2. This submission focuses in particular on the situation of the Rohingya living in northern Rakhine State in the townships of Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung. It is based on research by The Arakan Project, which is conducted on an ongoing basis through a network of field researchers and sources on the ground in Myanmar. It covers a wide range of issues relevant to the situation of the Rohingya in northern Rakhine State, including Myanmar's progress on implementing recommendations accepted during the last UPR, ongoing concerns about the country's legislative and institutional framework and cooperation with human rights mechanisms, as well as the government's implementation of its human rights obligations in practice.² The submission makes a series of recommendations aimed at improving respect, protection, and fulfilment of the rights of the Rohingya community in Myanmar.

B. INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND COOPERATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

Follow up to the previous review

3. The situation of the Rohingya population has deteriorated significantly since Myanmar's last UPR. In October and November 2016, and again from 25 August 2017, the Myanmar security forces launched a violent campaign of ethnic cleansing against Rohingya civilians living in northern Rakhine State, ostensibly in response to attacks on police posts by armed group the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA). More than 800,000 fled mass killings, widespread rape and sexual violence, arson and destruction of Rohingya villages and other serious crimes.

¹The Arakan Project's engagement with UN human rights mechanisms include submissions to the Universal Periodic Review (1st and 2nd cycles), the CEDAW and CRC Committees, and briefings to UN Special Procedures, including the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar, the UN International Fact-Finding Mission. Most recently, in 2016 The Arakan Project submitted a shadow report to the CEDAW Committee - See *Key issues concerning the situation of stateless Rohingya women and girls in Rakhine State, Myanmar – Submission to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) For the Examination of the combined 4th and 5th periodic State Party Reports*, 10 June 2016. https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/MMR/INT_CEDAW_NGO_MMR_24280_E.pdf

² Specifically, it includes information pertaining to the rights to equality and non-discrimination; the rights of minorities and indigenous persons; the right to life, liberty and security of the persons; fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public life; freedom of movement; economic, social and cultural rights including the right to adequate standard of living, the right to health, and the right to education.

4. Meanwhile, the government claim to have implemented 81 of the 88 recommendations made by the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State led by the late Kofi Annan, however as detailed below, the situation for the Rohingya remains deeply concerning.³

5. During its 2nd cycle UPR in November 2015, Myanmar rejected all 27 recommendations specifically relating to the rights of the Rohingya.⁴ The government also rejected broader recommendations which – if implemented – could have improved respect for and protection of Rohingyas’ rights, for example, by ensuring effective birth registration,⁵ or taking specific action to combat hate speech and incitement to violence.⁶ While Myanmar accepted recommendations to investigate human rights violations,⁷ impunity remains deeply entrenched and has only facilitated further abuses against the Rohingya.

Cooperation with UN human rights mechanisms

6. Since December 2017 the Myanmar authorities have denied access to the country to the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar.⁸ It is unclear whether the new mandate holder will be granted access. The government also refused to cooperate with the UN-established Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for Myanmar (IIFFM), and has rejected the establishment of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM). Meanwhile, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has been unable to establish a permanent presence in the country.

7. In October 2017 Myanmar ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, although as described below, has yet to fulfil its obligations under the treaty with respect to the rights of the Rohingya.⁹ Although the Myanmar government engaged with the CEDAW review in 2016, and the Special CEDAW session in 2018, it is overdue in submitting its report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

³ The Advisory Commission on Rakhine State was established by State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi in 2016, shortly after coming to power. The Commission was mandated to examine and make recommendations aimed at addressing the situation in Rakhine State and presented its final report on 24 August 2017, hours before the ARSA attacks.

⁴ A/HRC/31/13, recommendations 145.8. (Guatemala); 145.27 (Saudi Arabia); 145.30 (Slovenia); 145.39-145.53 (Sudan, Luxembourg, Pakistan, Sudan, Senegal, Costa Rica, Argentina, Libya, Oman, Belgium, Malaysia, Djibouti, Egypt, Luxembourg, and Saudi Arabia), 145.55-145.56 (Iceland and Saudi Arabia), 145.60-145.66 (Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Netherlands, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Sweden, and United States of America).

⁵ A/HRC/31/13, recommendations 144.52-144.54 (Albania, Paraguay, and Canada).

⁶ A/HRC/31/13, recommendations 144.49 (Nigeria), 144.51 (Algeria), and 145.12 (Norway),

⁷ A/HRC/31/13, recommendations 143.77-143.82 (Finland, Iceland, Senegal, Lithuania, and Argentina).

⁸ United Nations, Myanmar refuses access to UN Special Rapporteur, 17 December 2017,

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22553>

⁹ See UN: Status of Treaties, ICESCR, https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=IV-3&chapter=4&clang=en

C. NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK

Citizenship Law

8. Much of the discrimination against the Rohingya community stems from their lack of legal status, and they remain deprived of their right to a nationality as a result of the 1982 Citizenship Law,¹⁰ which has been applied in a discriminatory way. The law identifies three categories of citizens: (Full) citizens, Associate citizens, and Naturalized citizens, each with different sets of rights. (Full) citizens or citizens by birth are mostly those belonging to the 135 “national races” settled in Myanmar before 1823 according to the government; the Rohingya are not included. Naturalized citizenship – which can be revoked at any time – requires fulfilling stringent requirements including tracing lineage for three generations, fluency in one of the recognised national languages, and being of “sound mind” and “good character”.¹¹ The UN, international NGOs, and others have long called for the law to be amended in line with international standards, however the administration has shown no intention of doing so.

Impunity

9. Myanmar’s legal framework is inadequate to ensure accountability for violations committed by the Myanmar military. Under the 2008 Constitution, the military is not subject to civilian oversight and has total control of its own judicial processes. Domestic efforts to investigate crimes against the Rohingya in 2016 and from August 2017 have lacked independence and impartiality and have often been accompanied by threats and intimidation.¹² The full report of the Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE), established by the government to investigate allegations of abuse from 25 August 2017, has yet to be made public.

10. Military-led investigations also underscore the lack of transparency and accountability for abuses against Rohingya. In April 2018, ten Myanmar soldiers were imprisoned for seven years by a court martial for the killing of 10 Rohingya men and boys in Inn Din, Maungdaw Township.¹³ They were released in November 2018 after being pardoned by Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.¹⁴ On 30 June 2020, the military announced a court martial had found three military personnel guilty of “weaknesses in following instructions” for “incidents” in Gu Dar Pyin, Buthidaung Township.¹⁵ No details were given about their

¹⁰ The 1982 Citizenship Law can be accessed at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b4f71b.html>

¹¹ 1982 Citizenship Law, Article 44.

¹² See for example, The Arakan Project, *Investigation Commissions to whitewash atrocities? The need for an independent international investigation mechanism*, 15 March 2017, https://www.burmalibrary.org/docs23/The_need_for_an_independent_international_investigation_mechanism.pdf

¹³ *Reuters*, “Exclusive: Myanmar soldiers jailed for Rohingya killings freed after less than a year”, 27 May 2019, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-rohingya-soldiers-exclusive/exclusive-myanmar-soldiers-jailed-for-rohingya-killings-freed-after-less-than-a-year-idUSKCN1SX007>.

¹⁴ According to Article 343 of the 2008 Constitution, the Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Services is the final arbiter of military justice.

¹⁵ Gu Dar Pyin was the site of a massacre of Rohingya civilians on 27-28 August 2017, which was well documented by the UN Fact Finding Mission and others.

ranks, the crimes of which they were found guilty, and what punishment – if any – had been imposed.¹⁶ The Arakan Project has previously documented intimidation against villagers questioned during the investigation.

D. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS

Citizenship “verification” process

11. During the 2nd cycle UPR of Myanmar, The Arakan Project and others expressed concern about the discriminatory citizenship “verification” process, in which Rohingya are required to apply for a National Verification Card (NVC) as a first step towards being recognized as citizens. These concerns remain. The government continues to insist that Rohingya undergo a “verification” process, which is not only discriminatory and denies their right to self-identify, but also extremely bureaucratic, lengthy, and subject to heavy fees. Few Rohingya who have undergone the process have been granted citizenship, and when they have – either as full or naturalized citizens – they are identified as “Bengali”.¹⁷

12. Authorities have at times used violence or the threat of violence to force Rohingya to apply for the NVC. However, a more common tactic has been to increase restrictions on their movement to pressure them to accept the NVC; without the card, Rohingya are further limited in their ability to access education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities.¹⁸ Consequently, more and more Rohingya have been left with no choice but to accept the NVC.

Restrictions on freedom of movement

13. The authorities continue to impose arbitrary and discriminatory restrictions on Rohingyas’ freedom of movement. Since November 2019, possession of an NVC has become mandatory to travel through checkpoints in Maungdaw Township – even for patients seeking medical treatment in Maungdaw town. At times, bribes and even a Village Departure Certificate –previously required for travel within a township – are no longer accepted. While travel within Buthidaung Township is still possible without an NVC, payment of bribes is usually required. Rohingyas holding NVCs are permitted to travel between Maungdaw and Buthidaung Townships, however those without the card are still required for apply for a ‘Form 4’ – a travel permit mandatory for Rohingya travelling

¹⁶ Human Rights Watch, *Myanmar: Court Martial Latest Accountability Sham: Convictions Obscure Widespread Military Impunity*, 3 July 2020, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/07/03/myanmar-court-martial-latest-accountability-sham>.

¹⁷ The term ‘Bengali’ is used in Myanmar to deny Rohingyas’ identity and imply they are migrants from Bangladesh. Research by The Arakan Project indicates that the citizenship “verification” process is arbitrary, depending essentially on the payment of exorbitant informal fees. In one case documented by the organization, an individual who was granted full citizenship allegedly paid more than 20 million Kyat in bribes, while others only received naturalized citizenship despite having submitted the same documentary evidence with a lesser amount of money. In addition, research by The Arakan Project indicates that since the end of September the Immigration Office in Buthidaung has refused to accept new citizenship applications and the Village Tract authorities stopped issuing recommendation letters necessary for the application process.

¹⁸ For example, The Arakan Project field research indicates permission for fishing and vehicle registration renewal are contingent on holding an NVC.

between townships in Rakhine State and to other parts of the country. Those travelling with a 'Form 4' remain subject to extortion and the threat of violence at checkpoints.

14. Rohingya who travel without official permission risk arrest and imprisonment. Myanmar authorities have detained Rohingyas leaving Rakhine State overland and found in other parts of the country, as well as Rohingya returning from Bangladesh.¹⁹ Rohingya children have been sent to youth rehabilitation centres. On 20 April 2020, more than 800 detained Rohingya were released;²⁰ however, on 23 June 2020, 16 Rohingya were detained in Ayeyarwady Region, while, in July, 11 Rohingya re-entering Myanmar from Bangladesh were jailed for six months.²¹

Population checks

15. The Myanmar authorities continue to conduct discriminatory annual Rohingya population checks in northern Rakhine State, the most recent of which began in November 2019. During these checks – known as 'household list updating' – authorities check Rohingya household lists, photographing each family as a group and individually and recording any absences. The population checks are accompanied by extortion and informal fees, in particular for adding new-borns to the household list, or preventing absent family members' names from being deleted.²²

Child registration and birth certificates

16. Rohingya in northern Rakhine State continue to face restrictions in registering new-born children on their household lists, and parents without official documentation are required to first apply for an NVC in addition to paying bribes to submit the registration application. Whenever Rohingya children are given birth certificates, their ethnicity is listed as 'Bengali'.

Political disenfranchisement

17. Rohingyas were ineligible to vote in the 2015 general election, despite having been able to vote in previous elections, and those who applied to run as parliamentary candidates were refused on the basis of discriminatory citizenship criteria. With general elections scheduled for 8 November 2020, it is expected that Rohingya will once again be prevented from participating.

¹⁹ See for example *Radio Free Asia (RFA)*, "Myanmar Court Jails 15 Rohingya For Two Years For Trying to Flee Country", 6 March 2020, <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/rohingya-jailed-03062020155637.html>; Frontier Myanmar, "No exit: Rohingya jailed en masse for escaping Rakhine", 15 January 2020, <https://www.frontiermyanmar.net/en/no-exit-rohingya-jailed-en-masse-for-escaping-rakhine/>

²⁰ *AFP in The Straits Times*, "Coronavirus: Myanmar ships 800 freed Rohingya prisoners back to Rakhine", 20 April 2020, <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/coronavirus-myanmar-ships-800-freed-rohingya-prisoners-back-to-rakhine>

²¹ *Development Media Group (DMG)*, "Maungdaw Twsp Court sentences 11 unlawful entrants to six months in prison", 3 July 2020, <https://www.dmediag.com/news/1678-11-3-md-dsc>.

²² For many Rohingya, in particular children, household lists are the only official record of their residence in Myanmar. Deletion from the household list will make it extremely difficult for Rohingya who have fled Myanmar to return to the country.

International crimes and conflict-related abuses

18. The Rohingya have been subjected to serious violations – murder, rape and sexual violence, torture and ill-treatment, arrest and detention, enforced disappearances, and forcible deportation – committed by Myanmar security forces in the context of the 2016 and 2017 military campaigns. Many of these crimes have been well-documented by IIFFM, the Arakan Project, and others. The IIFFM has called for senior officials to be investigated and prosecuted for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes,²³ and there are currently several international justice processes ongoing aimed at ensuring accountability.²⁴

19. Since the start of 2019, the Rohingya have increasingly been caught up in the escalating conflict between the Myanmar military and the Arakan Army (AA). The Arakan Project has documented the killing of Rohingya civilians – often resulting from indiscriminate artillery fire by the Myanmar military – as well as death and serious injury resulting from landmines, and explosive remnants of war used by both parties to the conflict.²⁵ The military has also recruited Rohingya civilians – primarily men and boys – to forced labour, including sentry duty, repair and construction work.²⁶ Rohingya have also been forced to support military operations by acting guides and transporting soldiers and munitions, exposing them to attacks and retaliation by the AA.

20. Armed attacks, the presence of unexploded ordnances (UXOs), and forced labour have a dramatic impact on Rohingya lives, in particular as it prevents them from undertaking livelihoods activities essential for their basic survival. The ongoing conflict and persecution of remaining Rohingya make the prospect of refugee returns increasingly remote.

²³ Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar (UN IIFFM), *Report of the detailed findings of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar*, 17 September 2018.

²⁴ In September 2018 the UN Human Rights Council established the International Investigative Mechanism on Myanmar to collect and preserve evidence of serious crimes in Myanmar and prepare case files for criminal prosecution. In November, the International Criminal Court authorized an investigation into forced deportation and others crimes, see International Criminal Court, “ICC judges authorise opening of an investigation into the situation in Bangladesh/Myanmar”, 14 November 2019, <https://www.icc-cpi.int/Pages/item.aspx?name=pr1495>. Meanwhile, the Gambia has lodged a dispute against Myanmar at the International Court of Justice, accusing it of breaching its obligations as a state party to the UN Genocide Convention. See the International Court of Justice “The Republic of The Gambia institutes proceedings against The Republic of the Union of Myanmar and asks the Court to indicate provisional measures”, 11 November 2019, <https://www.icj-cij.org/files/case-related/178/178-20191111-PRE-01-00-EN.pdf>.

²⁵ The Arakan Project documented a series of incidents in 2019 and 2020 in which Rohingya villagers from Buthidaung Township were killed or injured in unlawful and indiscriminate attacks, likely by the Myanmar military. For example, at least seven Rohingya bamboo cutters were killed and 19 wounded in a helicopter attack in a forest near Hpon Nyo Leik area on 4 April 2019 while four school children were killed and six seriously injured in an UXO explosion while collecting firewood in Teik Tu Pauk village on 7 January 2020. More recently, on 26 June 2020, a shell killed a baby carried by his father, who was also injured in Pyaing Taung village.

²⁶ The practice is especially prevalent in southern Buthidaung Township, where large military contingents have been deployed to fight the Arakan Army. According to The Arakan Project interviews, village authorities received orders from the military to collect forced labourers in rotation, often for 3-4 days at a time. No food or remuneration is provided, and those who fail to attend are fined.

Access to education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities

21. Restrictions on movement have a serious impact on Rohingya's ability to access education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities, further fuelling poverty and deprivation. Rohingya students in northern Rakhine State are generally unable to access higher education at university. When they are able to access medical facilities, Rohingya report discriminatory and abusive treatment. The situation is exacerbated by severe restrictions on humanitarian access to northern Rakhine State. Access is strictly controlled, irregular, and subject to bureaucratic processes. Restrictions on humanitarian access have also made it difficult for aid workers to access Rohingya communities in conflict-affected areas.

Internet shutdown

22. Since 21 June 2019, the Myanmar authorities have restricted mobile internet access in parts of northern Rakhine State and in neighbouring Chin State, ostensibly to repel the AA.²⁷ As of May 2020, it had been lifted in Maungdaw Township, however remained in effect the eight other townships.

23. The internet shutdown has made it more difficult to document human rights violations, in particular as it applies in areas in which access for independent journalists and human rights monitors is already restricted. It has also prevented remaining Rohingya from receiving remittance money from relatives overseas, exacerbating their already precarious economic situation. The shutdown has also made it difficult for communities in affected areas to access information about COVID-19.

COVID-19 related concerns

24. Since March 2020, Myanmar's response to the COVID-19 pandemic has further tightened restrictions on the Rohingya, and affected their access to livelihoods. In addition, several confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Rakhine State have revitalised anti-Rohingya sentiment, with Rohingya being vilified as 'carriers of the virus',²⁸ despite a presidential directive to prevent proliferation of hate speech.²⁹

²⁷ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Statement on the temporary internet suspension in Rakhine and southern Chin States", 8 July 2020, <https://www.mofa.gov.mm/statement-on-the-temporary-internet-suspension-in-rakhine-and-southern-chin-states/>. Initially, the shutdown was imposed in nine townships – Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, Maungdaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Ponnagyun, and Rathedaung townships in Rakhine State and Paletwa Township in Chin State. It was lifted in Buthidaung, Maungdaw, Myebon, Paletwa, and Rathedaung townships on 1 September 2019 before being re-imposed on 3 February 2020. Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, Maungdaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Ponnagyun, and Rathedaung townships in Rakhine State and Paletwa Township in Chin State

²⁸ In early July 2020, Rohingya villagers in Maungdaw Township reported to The Arakan Project that ethnic Rakhine shop owners had refused to serve them on the grounds they don't want to be contaminated by COVID-19. Meanwhile, in June 2020, news journal *The Voice* published a racist cartoon depicting a Rohingya man crossing the border carrying a coronavirus with him, the phrase 'illegal interloper' above.

²⁹ *Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the President Directive No. 3/2020 13th Waning of Tagu, 1382 ME (20 April 2020) Prevention of incitement to hatred and violence (or) Prevention of proliferation of hate speech*, 20 April 2020, <https://www.president-office.gov.mm/en/?q=briefing-room/news/2020/04/21/id-10007>.

E. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

25. The situation in Rakhine State remains fluid and constantly evolving. By the time the UN Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review examines the human rights situation in Myanmar in early 2021, further deterioration in the situation, including for the Rohingya, is anticipated.

26. To address these concerns at the upcoming UPR of Myanmar, The Arakan Project calls on UN member States to make the following recommendations to the Government of Myanmar:

Cooperation with UN human rights mechanisms and bodies

- Fully cooperate with UN human rights mechanisms, including by granting full and unfettered access to the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and extending an open invitation to all Special Procedures.
- Cooperate with international efforts to ensure accountability for serious crimes in Myanmar, including by granting full and unfettered access to the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM).
- Allow the Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR) to establish a permanent office in the country.

National human rights framework

- Take immediate action to review and reform the 1982 Citizenship Law in accordance with international standards in order to prevent and eradicate statelessness in Myanmar and bring Myanmar law into compliance with the universally respected prohibition of racial discrimination.
- Review and amend the 2008 Constitution to, *inter alia*, bring the military under civilian oversight and ensure that military personnel accused of human rights violations and crimes under international law, can be tried before independent, civilian courts.
- Ratify key international treaties, including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and incorporate and implement their provisions in law, policy, and practice.

Restore rights to the Rohingya

- Immediately suspend the citizenship verification process based on the 1982 Citizenship Law and restore Rohingya's citizenship rights through a prompt and transparent process developed in consultation with the Rohingya community.
- Respect and fulfil the right of all ethnic and religious communities in Myanmar to self-identify, and remove all indicators of ethnicity and religion from identity cards, birth certificates and other supporting documentation;

- Ensure all Rohingya children are registered at birth and issued birth certificates. Remove burdensome requirements which make it difficult for Rohingya families to add their children's names to household lists.
- End the discriminatory process of annual population checks in northern Rakhine State, and ensure that no person is arbitrarily "deleted" from their household list.
- Repeal all discriminatory orders and regulations that restrict the freedom of movement of the Rohingya, and immediately release those arrested for travelling without official documentation.
- Ensure Rohingya have equal access to healthcare, education, and livelihood opportunities in Rakhine State.
- Take effective action to create conditions conducive to the voluntary return of the displaced Rohingyas to their place of origin or to other places of voluntary resettlement in safety and dignity, and to ensure adequate reintegration and security.
- Ensure the right of all people to participate in public life, including by voting and standing for election, free from discrimination on any grounds.
- To combat all acts of incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence against religious and ethnic minorities, in particular against the Rohingya, condemn such acts publicly and take swift legal action against perpetrators.
- Fully implement the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, and provide regular, public reporting on progress.

Accountability and conflict-related abuses

- Immediately cease violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, and allow independent investigations into allegations of human rights abuses, to ensure that perpetrators – including those with command responsibility – are prosecuted in fair trials.
- Make public the full reports of the Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) and all other domestic investigations into abuses in Rakhine State.
- End the practice of forced labour, including sentry duty and forced guiding. Hold accountable any soldier that subjects civilians to forced labour.
- Ensure full, unfettered, and sustained access for humanitarian workers in Rakhine State, in particular in Maungdaw, Buthidaung, and Rathedaung Townships.
- Immediately lift the mobile internet shutdown in Rakhine and Chin States.
- Grant independent observers, journalists, and human rights monitors, full and unrestricted access to all parts of Rakhine State.