

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

4<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear Prime Minister,

In the light of recent visits to the border of Myanmar and Bangladesh by two members of the parliamentary Labour Party, shadow DFID minister Roberta Blackman-Woods, and Rosena Allin-Khan, I am writing to express my concern about the scale of the emergency facing Rohingya communities.

The Rohingya, as you know, are a stateless minority in Myanmar who have been subjected to systematic repression over many years. Since the latest crisis began earlier this year, 920,000 people have fled Myanmar in response to an escalation of violence by the Myanmar military and are living in camps on the Bangladesh/Myanmar border. Two thirds of these people have crossed the border since 25<sup>th</sup> August. A further 200,000 people are expected to flee violence in Myanmar by the end of the year.

There can be nothing but unequivocal condemnation of the Myanmar military regime's brutality towards the Rohingya and other ethnic minorities in Myanmar. And those responsible for this campaign of "ethnic cleansing" must be held accountable.

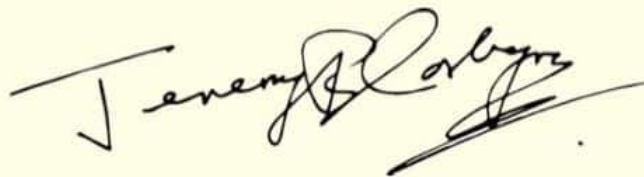
There must also be a greater sense of urgency in our country's support and action to alleviate the suffering of the Rohingya. With reports of an agreed repatriation process between Myanmar and Bangladesh, I hope you share my concerns about how the safety of the Rohingya will be secured, and where they might be resettled since hundreds of their villages have been destroyed. It is also not clear whether they will be forced into internal camps or have access to humanitarian assistance.

Pressure must be focused on the Myanmar government to not only bring an immediate end to violence, but to secure the rights and citizenship of the Rohingya people. That requires a political solution, which recognises the Rohingya people as equal citizens under domestic law and ensures free movement of people irrespective of ethnicity or religion. There can be no safe and genuine return without these guarantees. So I urge the government to step its efforts, use its membership of the UN Security Council and not ignore its responsibility to lead efforts in bringing about a political solution.

Given your government's role in providing military assistance to the Myanmar military, can you confirm this has now been halted? Should we not also be calling for an international arms embargo to ensure arms exports are not being used against the Rohingya if and when they return? And will you commit a high level government delegation to Myanmar to assess whether calls for repatriation can be justified on humanitarian grounds?

Given the public interest in these issues, I will be making this letter public.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Corbyn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeremy Corbyn MP  
Leader of the Opposition