“A SILENCE EXTERMINATION IN OWN HOMELAND”

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Civilians in Rakhine (Arakan State) Myanmar remain at risk of mass atrocity due to crimes perpetrated by the Myanmar security forces. This is especially true for the Arakanese (Rakhine) population who are targeted with discriminatory laws and policies, ethnic cleansing, and unspeakable acts of genocide.

Myanmar is a fragile state with a weak economy. For many decades, the Burmese ruling class under auspices of the authoritarian military regime have effectively institutionalized their superiority and control over the resources in territories occupied by ethnic minorities. And there has been absolutely no genuine interest in redressing the equity, oppressive and underprivileged conditions it has imposed on ethnic minorities.

Although the country has now transitioned to a democratically elected civilian government led the National League for Democracy (NLD), there has been no serious attempts to rectify the territorial grievances and the unequal and repressive treatment of ethnic minorities, especially the Rakhine people. The regime is still controlled by the Burmese ruling elites. As such, the values of liberty and equality remain elusive for ethnic minorities. For example, the War in Rakhine State has been led by Myanmar Civilians government National League for Democracy (NLD) and its military campaign of terror against minority groups.

According to local news reports: there are about 75,000 Internal Displaced People (IDP), and this number continue to increase daily. About 4 thousand children do not attend schools and lack of access to safe classroom, about 64% of children in Rakhine State living in IDP’s camps. Many families have been torn apart by violence, killed, injured, detained, disappearances in recent war.

From December 2018 to October 31 2019, the war and arm conflicts with highest estimated deaths tolls of 100 and more. 15 civilians dead during military detention in Rakhine State.

Civilian death & injured for violence: 15% death, about 31% of young people who are age groups 0-17 old and all ages groups who are subjected to various forms of violence. 40 people forced disappears, arrested 275 in prisoned 164 ordered to be arrested from Singapore and neighboring countries.

Freedom of expression restricted, many Arakanese youth, activist, humanitarian workers, journalist are being targeted. Government policies targeted extermination against civilian population. Human Rights situation in Rakhine (Arakan) State under state of emergency condition.

As a result of the current WAR, thousands of Arakanese are suffering from the devastating consequences of violations committed by the Myanmar Army. The situation has led critical for the supply of humanitarian aid, threatens to exacerbate this already dire situation. This includes the deployment of elements of at least eight Light Infantry Divisions (LID), namely LIDs 11, 22, 33, 44, 55, 66, 77 and 99.581. Some of these LIDs are notorious for their flagrant disregard for international human rights law and international humanitarian law. The military units that perpetrated these crimes continue to operate in Rakhine State, Myanmar.
The 2019 report “A SILENCE EXTERMINATION IN OWN HOMELAND” by the International Campaign for Arakan (ICA) on Rakhine State, it was concluded that the military, have committed crimes against humanity and war crimes in Rakhine.

This report also identifies numerous challenges related the protection and promotion of the right to freedom of expression, belief, justice and liberty.

These include:

* Highly discriminatory Anti-terrorism law and legal arrangements for the rights of civilians in Rakhine State.
* Arbitrary arrest, extrajudicial killing and detention on innocent civilians mostly for Arakanese community.
* Deprivation of access to humanitarian aid and urgent medical treatment.

In light of these challenges the report offered key recommendations to the Government of Myanmar to accountability, rule of law and justice for its civilians in accordance with International human rights law and with full protection for the rights to freedom and liberty.

In the modern Era Myanmar has violated a range of the Human Rights violations including: the right to life, the right to security of the person the right to freedom of expression the right to freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention and enforced disappearances the freedom from torture and ill treatment, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment.

It has also violated National legislation related extra extra-judicial and the prohibition of holding over detainees without the rights to legal defense. This is fragrant violation of their human rights. The phenomenon of extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearances the Myanmar continued systematic ethnic “The reason I joined the Arakan Army and train as a female soldier is because I don’t want to see the Myanmar army oppress and kill Rakhine people anymore,” says Soe Soe. she spoke to a VOA reporter.

ABOUT INTERNATION CAMPAIGN FOR ARAKAN:

The ICA is an advocacy organization, working for equality and justice for Arakanese and the lending voice of the voiceless.

SOURCES OF DATA:

This report draws on data collected from multiple sources by the International Campaign for Arakan (ICA). Finding on the attitudes and experiences of victims of war and local community-based news agencies and organizations that used standard sampling and interviews techniques (online & phone) interviewing with civilians, victims, aid workers, journalist and leaders.
HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE RECENT CONFLICT

POLITICAL EXCLUSION FROM NATIONAL DIALOG

The current government has the best chance for a negotiated political settlement to address the almost 70 years of armed conflict, which has devastated the lives of minority communities. On Dec. 21 the military announced a unilateral ceasefire with armed groups in the northeast that will be in effect until April 30, 2019. The seven UNFC groups, desire to reach a political settlement on the grievances driven decades of conflict – fundamentally, lack of autonomy and equality but exclusion of the Arakan Army. The Arakan Army is treated differently because government does not believe AA has any legitimacy. Government must acknowledge and welcome all parties with an open arms for peace and national reconciliation dialog.

The dispute stems from the Burmese Government total control over the resources in the Rakhine territory. The political problems posed by the conflict and the unwillingness of the Armed groups and government to adopt reforms is impeding the prospects of restoring economic viability and addressing the increasingly desperate condition of most Arakanese (Rakhine) people and other minority communities in Rakhine State.

In January 2019, the warring factions continued attacks and targeting innocent civilians. The clashes between Myanmar’s military and the Arakan Army, have displaced more than 75,000 people in Rakhine and Chin states since early December 2018 October 2019. There has been two attempts to bring both the Myanmar government and Military and AA come to negotiating table. However, those attempts failed to produce any agreement, in the meantime the fighting continued. These leaves the hopeless situations for peace and security for the Rakhine people and other minorities in Rakhine State.

The Arakan Army was formed in 2009. It is fighting in Rakhine State against troops loyal to the government of Myanmar, oppressive government. The Arakan Army aim for self-determination or confederation for Arakanese, and control over their territory and resources. Many young generation of Arakanese (Rakhine) join this movement to fight for their freedom and dignity of their people.

REFUSAL TO WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS FROM RAKHINE STATE

Myanmar Military & Arakan Army refusal to withdraw Its Troops from Rakhine State. This has significantly hindered any prospect of a negotiated settlement of the dispute.

From historical standpoint Arakan was the independent kingdom for thousands of years until 1784 when Burmese occupied the sovereign territory of Arakan.

According to Panglong agreement of February 1947, the ruling Burmese elite General Aung San agreed to allowed ethnic minorities to maintain their independence if they chose to. But the leaders from Rakhine territory did not agreed to be a signatory to this agreement. However, the Burmese government has failed live up to this agreement. Till today Rakhine people belief self-determination and territorial integrity.

For two hundred and thirty-five years of an occupation, hostile Myanmar forces must exercise effective control. In this regard, two elements…

First, the Myanmar government forces physically present in the territory and the territorial Rakhine minorities did not consent to their presence.

Second, the presence of the foreign forces (as Myanmar Government solders) prevents Rakhine people from exercising their rights and interest.

Third, current government prioritized on economic development on Rakhine State, instead of promoting political dialog.

For Rakhine State sustainable development & peace, its crucial all parties to prevent further hostility.
THE DISPLACEMENT OF ARAKANESE (RAKHINE) PEOPLE

In (January 2019) The Myanmar Civilians Government issued and ordered to the general Min Aung Hlaing to engage all necessary forces “to fight against Arakan Army”. The order was immediately implemented by Military, which targeted not only Arakan Army also targeted Arakanese civilians. This is in no uncertain terms a form of ethnic cleansing and the aim is to **Systemically exterminate** Arakanese (Rakhine) people from their own land. Used of helicopters, bombs, shelling and targeting civilians’ homes, monasteries, schools, and destruction of cultural heritage. Many of the victims include monks, men, women, children and elderlies. Millions of Arakanese are now living in fear and their personal security has been compromised. It is unknown when their peaceful way of live will be restored.

**RESULTS:** The aftermath of the 10 months of civil war has affected:

- 75,000 Internal Displaced Persons (IDP)
- 100 people have been killed including innocent children.
- 276 people have been arbitrarily arrested, tortured and detained
- Over 15 people have died while in custody.
- 40 people enforced disappearance
- 4,000 children do not have access to education
- Humanitarian crisis, shortage of food and sanitation and basic needs
  (Number are an approximation)

Many people have been displaced multiple times, often over short periods, majority of families had fled home 2 times in March 2019 alone. Such irregular but continual displacement poses challenges for humanitarians, which are exacerbated by restrictions on access.

Short-term displacements also have an adverse impact on livelihoods and food security, in particular when people are displaced from their homes at key points within the land cultivation cycle. According to Rakhine Ethnic Association (RCA), total number of IDP 64,951 in September, 2019

Since December 2018, till October 2019 the fighting intensified between the Arakan Army and Myanmar Government solders (Thamdaw) in northern Rakhine/ Arakanese townships of Mrauk-U, Rathedaung, Budhidaung, Ponnagyun, Manbya and Kyauktaw . According to Development Media Group, Narinjara, Irrawaddy News, and Free Asian, daily increase in the number of IDP.
Currently, IDP’s are being sheltered in 35 camps in Rakhine State. This report examines older people’s experience of conflict and oppression in Myanmar. The report also analyses how and why humanitarian assistance has failed to meet many Children and older people’s rights and needs, including related to health, sanitation, food, water, and participation.

EXTRAJUDICTIOAL KILLINGS & ARBITRARY ARREST:

The Myanmar authorities have repeatedly killed, beaten, threatened, harassed, detained, and injured hundreds of civilians. Millions of Arakanese have been traumatized by the actions of the Myanmar government forces. This has led to widespread fear and insecurity of Arakanese people, in addition, the oppressive measures exercised by the Myanmar government dehumanize the powerless minority communities. The recent war and political crisis in Rakhine State have limited the freedom of expression and over-criminalization of the voice of resistance and political opinion.

The Myanmar Authorities Anti-terrorism law is been used as politically motivated arbitrary arrest and detention of hundreds of innocent civilians, including youth, schoolteachers, village administrators, aid workers, leaders, journalists and activists in Rakhine State. Myanmar government counter-terrorism law and policy cannot be an excuse to violently repress people’s discontent over state security measures that may put their rights at risk.

The chart shows the rate of death & injury for the month of October, 2019.
Of the 26 people who were war victims 15 % died,
The children and youth between 1-17 at 31%.
(this age range is the highest at risk).
Age 31-45 at 19%  Age 46-60 at 15 %
Age 61-80 at 12 %  Age 18-30 at 8%
Some of the war crimes and other violations we documented were committed by Myanmar soldiers (Thamdaw) from the military's 99th Light Infantry Division (LID), which has long been operational in northern Shan State. We also found that the military has fired indiscriminately, killing and injuring civilians and damaging homes and other property. The government military used the air strikes and shelled heavy mortar and artillery near the villages and houses were completely burned to ashes.

Myanmar soldiers shot and killed a 000-year-old Rakhine boy in February, suspecting him of being a member of an ethnic armed group. Myanmar soldiers also regularly move through – and at times stay in – villages, exposing civilians to the risk of attack. In some places, the military used schools as bases. At times, soldiers also stole or confiscated property, including food like rice and chickens.

We interviewed civilians who were forced to work as porters, carrying fighters' belongings and guiding them to other villages during active combat, putting their lives at risk.

Accountability for the Myanmar military’s atrocities should include a focus on the specific crimes committed against older women and men and draw on older people's unique communal knowledge and memory. For their part, donor governments, UN agencies, and humanitarian organizations must better ensure that assistance is inclusive, non-discriminatory, and respects older people's rights, and dignity.

Even those who flee are not safe - recent years have seen an alarming increase in the number of civilians killed or injured by landmines or improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The presence of landmines and explosive devices has a significant impact on livelihoods - several people told us they avoided going to certain areas for fear that they would be killed or injured by explosions. It's also a major reason why displaced people fear returning home. The violations were committed by soldiers, which are based in Rakhine State and has previously been implicated in violations of international humanitarian and human rights law in the area. These recent violations highlight once again the institutionalized and systemic nature of military abuse in Myanmar. In some cases, detainees were taken to military bases where they were held up for months. Detainees were usually held incommunicado, without access to lawyers or – for the most part – family members. Those responsible for war crimes must face justice,
SYSTEMIC REPRESSION AND CRIMINAL PROCESUCTION OF MINORITIES

Myanmar has a long history of charging innocent civilians on trumped-up terrorism related offenses. Many more individuals have been falsely accused by the Myanmar government for having ties with the Arakan Army. This had led to systemic targeting of innocent civilians.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
<th>Perpetrator</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hla Phyu Min</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>12-Mar-1990</td>
<td>20-Mar-19</td>
<td>LEB MO</td>
<td>Thanlwin Tchaung, Mawlamyine, Mon State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Zaw Myo Tun</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>16-Apr-1988</td>
<td>16-Apr-18</td>
<td>Maw</td>
<td>Yezin Chang, Mawlamyine, Mon State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Maung Tin Min</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>18-Apr-1965</td>
<td>25-Apr-18</td>
<td>Maw</td>
<td>Let Kaing, Mawlamyine, Mon State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Than Win Aung</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19-Feb-1999</td>
<td>21-Feb-18</td>
<td>Maw</td>
<td>Thanlwin Tchaung, Mawlamyine, Mon State</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Zaw Lah</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>10-Feb-1964</td>
<td>10-Feb-18</td>
<td>Maw</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Maung Tin OO</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>20-Apr-1965</td>
<td>20-Apr-18</td>
<td>Maw</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Run Han Chit</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>16-Oct-1984</td>
<td>16-Oct-18</td>
<td>Maw</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tun Swe Win</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>10-Apr-1969</td>
<td>10-Apr-18</td>
<td>Maw</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
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<td>M</td>
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<td>10-Mar-1969</td>
<td>10-Mar-18</td>
<td>Maw</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Aung U Ko</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>20-Apr-1969</td>
<td>20-Apr-18</td>
<td>Maw</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Maung Zaw Min</td>
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<td>10-Apr-1969</td>
<td>10-Apr-18</td>
<td>Maw</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Tun Oo Tun</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Zaw Win Malay</td>
<td>M</td>
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<td>20-Feb-1985</td>
<td>20-Feb-18</td>
<td>Maw</td>
<td>Thanlwin Tchaung, Mawlamyine, Mon State</td>
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At least 15 persons died of injuries they received while in military or police custody or detention between March and August, 2019 during the ongoing armed conflict. Many individual are forced disappearance or missing after arrest by Myanmar government soldiers.

These heinous acts undermine democracy and national reconciliation. Including peaceful dialogs, Myanmar priority should be on securing peace without arbitrary arrest of innocent civilians.

"Arbitrary arrest, detentions and deaths in custody by soldiers violate international human rights treaties". //
These types of activities will clearly erode any attempt for National Reconciliation and Democracy.

Arbitrary arrest, brutal beating, killing and disappearance and other abuses against Arakanese (Rakhine) civilians during WAR and expulsion from Arakan State (Rakhine State). According to people on the ground, “civilians are systematically targeted and falsely accused.”

ENDANGERED IDENTITY AND HERITAGE

Mrauk-U, capital city of the first Arakanese (Rakhine) Kingdom and contains many Buddhist monuments (temples, stupas, monasteries, etc.) mostly built in the 15th and 16th centuries AD. UNESCO submitted on April 10, 1996.

This year Myanmar soldier’s positioning of artillery near historical and ancient heritage including Shite-thoung pagoda, Htukkanthein, Radna Mannaung, Sin Taung and Nibuza pagodas. Myanmar soldiers touched and use helicopter gunships at villages, temples, caused to cultural property also indicates that the Myanmar government soldiers violated the protections afforded under International law to cultural property from acts of hostility.

According to Irrawaddy news “Ancient Temples Face Damage from Military Shelling” More than one thousand pagodas, temples and stupas are experiencing dozens of vibrations as a result of the firing of howitzer artillery by Police Regiment No. 31 and military troops located on the hills in the ancient heritage zone, northern Rakhine State’s popular tourist destination of Mrauk-U. Shelling has been ongoing since March 18, 2019 attacked and damaged the Rakkha Muni pagoda as well as Shite-thoung pagoda, Htukkanthein, Radna Mannaung, Sin Taung and Nibuza pagodas.
From March 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 during fierce fighting between the Arakan Army (AA) and troops of the Myanmar military, The Myanmar army used airstrikes against the AA over three days.

The Myanmar Archeology Association (MAA) urged both parties to respect the 1954 Hague Convention for the protection of cultural property after the artillery shells landed near the downtown heritage temple Htukanthein and West Myede Pagoda in Mrauk-U on March 18. The Irrawaddy visited the two pagodas and saw the tail of a 40-millimeter mortar shell which had damaged West Myede Pagoda. This is a type of mortar often used by government troops.

The Rakhine people are being aggressively pushed out of their homeland, their villages burned, their people slaughtered, and this has been happening under a relentless campaign of false media, and external influence for political trickery and preposterous rewritten history. The settlers want to occupy the land, they do not want to live in harmony with others. And they attempt to destroy Rakhine heritage and identity.

The unique Buddhist caves of Arakan, the architecture, the mythological figures depicted by statues and in bas-relief, the histories, chronologies, stories and legends carved into stones in archaic languages - these are the defining elements of Arakan culture and history. These are the treasures and the soul of a world culture, and especially a glorious chapter in the history of Buddhism, and the continuing traditions of a Buddhist culture. Arakan has suffered and endured the conquest by colonization and extremal influences, whom unknowingly created the conditions of their current dilemma; the savage and destructive years during WWII, which also fueled the current plight; and the hopelessness.

Growing crimes of settlers against Rakhine people such as communal attack, religious persecution, land grabbing, murder, and rape etc. Many families have already lost their homes and loved ones - are now faced with the real danger of losing their identity, dignity, and way of life.

Fears of humanitarian crisis in Rakhine State in Myanmar. None of this evidence has been mentioned in the mainstream western media reports. The horrific suffering of thousands of people has been deliberately and callously ignored. While the Western media seems determined to present the situation in Rakhine State in the simplistic terms of a stateless people persecuted by the Myanmar authorities, the problem can only be understood in the context of the past and current geopolitical games that are being played by major world powers. The demographic invasion and ethnic cleansing against indigenous peoples and other minorities. The urgent demands of the Rakhine, Daingnet Indigenous People and other
minorities for protecting families from outside dangers and create spaces inside to protect their privacy and bring back feelings of security.

Statistically, Rakhaing people have poorer health, educational opportunities, life expectancy, employment options and many live in very remote areas. Along with these issues, many still have to deal with negative social attitudes. The current friction which exists between conservation policies and indigenous communities is evident in the experiences of the Rakhine and other minorities in Rakhine State in Myanmar. Rakhine State, is home to several indigenous peoples, including other minority communities. However, Arakan/Rakhine State issues conservation policies that have resulted in alienation of indigenous peoples from their lands.

Many indigenous/ethnic groups around the world experience the same plight. They are violently displaced away from their traditional territories without their free, prior and informed consent. Unfortunate, todays having regard to its previous resolutions on Rakhine State which are undertaken without obtaining the free, prior and informed consent of Rakhine indigenous peoples who are directly affected.

Arakan/Rakhine is invaluable, and it is essential to preserve and protect this ancient cultural heritage. Let’s protect and preserve this unique place.
EMPATHYSING WITH THE STRUGGLES AND DIFFICULT LIVES OF RAKHINE PEOPLE

Rakhine State has a population of about 3.22 million with over 84 percent in rural areas and 16 percent in urban areas.

POVERTY:
Rakhine State’s poverty rate is 78 percent, that is almost double the national rate of 37.54 percent, making it one of the poorest parts of the country. All communities in Rakhine suffer from poverty, poor social services and a scarcity of livelihood opportunities.

EMPLOYMENT:
Rakhine State has lowest workforce, highest unemployment rate: Rakhine State, working class represents only 52.6 percent while unemployment rate is 10.4 percent. It is a least-developed state in Myanmar with 70 percent of the population living on agricultural businesses. Its fishery industry is the second largest economic sector.

NATURAL RESOURCES:
Despite having abundant natural resources such as a vast oil and gas deposits, Rakhine State has the lowest workforce and the highest unemployment rate among all other states and regions in Myanmar, according to an investment opportunity survey for the state.

EDUCATION:
Gaps in education threaten the futures of all children in Rakhine State. While pre-school attendance among children aged 3-5 years is lowest in Rakhine (about 5 per cent). Almost 30 percent of children not enrolled. And the outbreak of violence in the State, has worsened access and quality of education for thousands of children. 40% of children in Rakhine State lack of access to safe classroom, due to ongoing war.

HEALTH
The lack of sustained independent assessments in northern Rakhine means that no one has a comprehensive picture of the situation on the ground and the medical and humanitarian needs,

Children have basic needs, such as adequate nutrition and health care, that if unmet could result in long-term consequences, including limitations on their physical and cognitive
development, and consequently on opportunities and wellbeing in adulthood. Independent humanitarian agencies remain largely blocked from accessing vulnerable communities in northern Rakhine state, raising major concerns about the unmet medical and humanitarian needs.

**URGENT APEAL**

International Campaign for Arakan (ICA) calling:

➢ Immediate cessation of WAR
➢ To stand in solidarity and justice for Arakanese (Rakhine) People, who are marginalized.
➢ The immediate involvement and engagement of International humanitarian agencies.
➢ Ensuring that Rakhine people are guaranteed freedom of expression.
➢ UNESCO must ensure the distinct cultural identities of Arakanese people is protected.
➢ Arakanese people to live free from discrimination and the threat of genocide
➢ implement Sustainable Development Goal 16 in Myanmar: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
➢ As Burma is implementing the Judicial Strategic Plan (2018 – 2022) the weakness of the judiciary system should be reviewed immediately and the government needs to address these issues without delay.

**CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Rakhine (Arakanese) are living in constant fear due to government soldiers indiscriminate attacks and break in into their homes, abduction of member of their family and subject them to torture, arbitrary arrest and extrajudicial killings.

This report clearly outline that the Myanmar government is willing to subject anyone, including journalists, faith leaders, students, youth, political leaders, and ordinary citizens and even children, to this systematic ethnic cleansing practices.

Recommendations The International Campaign for Arakan calls on the governments and International community closely allied to Myanmar, namely the United States and the United Kingdom, Canada, including ASEAN Nations and all relevant international institutions like the United Nations, to end the impunity and pressure the Government of Myanmar to:

1. Immediately end the practice of enforced disappearance; extrajudicial killings, and arbitrary arrest.
2. Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced all abuses.
3. Investigate all allegations of abuses and be accountable any state crimes committed against Rakhine (Arakanese) people.
4. Release from detention those who are falsely accused, as well as all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.
5. To stop sales of arm to Myanmar government.