

## **Subject Line: 3 Articles, 3 Aspects of Rohingya Suffering**

Assalaamu alaikum:

In this week's newsletter we share with you some good signs that our combined efforts are increasing public awareness of the suffering Rohingya. For example, an international delegation has compared the treatment of Rohingya to the Nazis' early pogroms against the Jews. Second, a moving pictorial essay on Burmese displacement camps sheds light on the separation of Rohingyas from relatives who have fled. Finally, the influential Foreign Policy blog describes how various political groups have been blaming and scapegoating the Rohingya as the 2015 national election approaches. For more details please read further:

- A World Without Genocide delegation recently taught Buddhist monks about human rights and the history of the Holocaust. An official from the organization described the inhumane treatment of Rohingya as “reminiscent of early actions Nazis took against the Jews of Europe” and noted the “torture, rape, forced labor, containment in camps with deplorable conditions, and killings” that the Rohingya suffer. [Read the summary of World Without Genocide visit here.](#)
- The Atlantic published an intimate pictorial essay of Rohingya in a camp for internally displaced persons in Burma communicating with relatives who left Burma as refugees. The Rohingya are forced to conduct these personal and emotional conversations in the company of everyone else in the “Internet hut.” [See the images here.](#) See the Action Item below to find out how you can thank The Atlantic for running this piece that offers faces and personal stories behind the Rohingya suffering.
- Who is “Burma's favorite scapegoat”? The Rohingya people, who have been used as political pawns in by multiple parties ahead of the upcoming elections. Burma may be gaining international approval for its steps towards democracy, but “it is becoming increasingly clear that the Rohingya have little to gain” as they are used as scapegoats. [Foreign Policy describes here the Burmese political parties' tactics involving the Rohingya.](#)

### **Action Item**

Positive feedback can ensure continued reporting. Please contact The Atlantic magazine to commend them for their pictorial essay described above. This essay contributes to the necessary and vital work of humanizing the suffering of the Rohingya by attaching faces to personal stories.

- Submit an email by using the form [here](#).
- Tweet your appreciation to Alan Taylor (@kokogiak), the senior editor who oversees the Photo section of The Atlantic.
- Call 202-266-6000 and praise their work in the piece.
- Please also remember to share the links of the photo essay, on facebook and in email, along with this newsletter! If we work together we can build a movement.

### **Background**

The United Nations considers the Rohingya Muslims of Burma to be one of the most persecuted minorities in the world. There used to be 5 million Muslims in Burma. Today, there are fewer than 3 million.

What is happening to the Burmese Muslim population?

For decades, there has been a “**slow-burning genocide**” against the Rohingya people, the Burmese Muslims in the western part of the country. A genocide that includes state-backed attacks, mass killings, mass evacuations, concentration camps, rape, and discriminatory marriage and child-bearing laws. Satellite imagery shows the aftermath of attacks against Rohingya villages, but it cannot show the faces of those suffering in squalid camps with woefully inadequate health care and provisions.

Burma Task Force is working to create domestic and international pressure to improve the treatment of Rohingya by the Burma government. The 2015 elections will determine the future of Burma, but the government of Burma has already refused to count the Rohingya in the national census.

Can we count on you to continue your support for Burma Task Force? Will you help us be a voice for the persecuted? We must not give up hope.

Thank you once again for all your efforts. May Allah (swt) reward you.

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