



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement

43rd SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Statement by Pakistan for ID with Special Rapporteur on Myanmar
March 10, 2020

Madam President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for her report.

Pakistan concurs with the Special Rapporteur in noting that rising nationalist, extremist and populist narratives are antithetical to human rights and are of great concern, in particular regarding ethnic and religious minorities. Such narratives fuel incitement to violence, discrimination and hatred.

Madam President,

We are concerned at the reports of ongoing violence, forced labour, extortion and looting of Rohingya Muslims in northern Rakhine, as well as continuing restrictions on their movement, access to food, livelihoods, healthcare and education. This only serves to further isolate and criminalize the Muslim Rohingya Population. Rohingya Muslims have been victims of a systemic persecution spanning decades and the international community must immediately pay heed to their suffering.

The underlying social and political causes of discrimination and persecution against the Rohingya Muslims need be addressed, and all ranks within the security forces must be held accountable for their actions, absence of which, similar outbreaks of violence and associated atrocity crimes will continue. Pakistan also joins Special Rapporteur's call on Myanmar to reform the Citizenship Law, which continues to be applied discriminatorily, and risks rendering Muslims outside of Rakhine being stateless as a result.

Madam President,

Pakistan believes that the fabric of a society must be based on equality and not a hierarchy of citizenship statuses. The connections between citizenship and membership of a "national race" must be removed, and instead recognition of the benefits of diversity must be ensured.

We stand ready to work with all stakeholders, including Government of Myanmar, to prevent human rights violations against the Rohingya and for their sustainable return and rehabilitation to their ancestral homes in Myanmar in conditions of peace.

I thank you.