

**ALERT**



# THE ROHINGYA IN BURMA

“ They destroyed our religion by killing our religious scholars, our education by killing our teachers, and our economy by killing our businessmen and traders. They destroyed every aspect of our lives. ”

Visit our exhibition, **Burma's Path to Genocide**, located on the second floor of the Museum, or online at [exhibitions.ushmm.org/burmas-path-to-genocide](https://exhibitions.ushmm.org/burmas-path-to-genocide).

**THE ROHINGYA ARE A MUSLIM MINORITY GROUP** in the southeast Asian country of Burma, also known as Myanmar. Various leaders of the country have treated them as outsiders and stripped them of citizenship and other basic rights. Over the past few decades the military, as well as other actors, have committed extreme acts of violence against the Rohingya.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum warned for many years about the risk of genocide and other mass atrocities being perpetrated against the Rohingya. These warnings were largely ignored, leading to indescribable human suffering. **In December 2018, the Museum determined that genocide had been committed against the Rohingya.** In March 2022, Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced the US government's determination of the same.

The Rohingya have experienced widespread anti-Muslim hate speech and decades of restrictions excluding them from political and cultural life in Burma. Rohingya have been denied the right to vote, to run as candidates, and to work in government positions. Local authorities have imposed restrictions on marriage and childbirth, prevented freedom of movement, blocked access to basic needs such as health care and higher education, and subjected Rohingya to forced labor.

The Rohingya have few laws to protect them and often have no practical way to seek justice in the country. Burma's military launched a coup in early 2021, putting perpetrators of the genocide in power, where they continue to violently attack protesters, members of other ethnic minority groups, and others who oppose their rule.

Burma's military has denied that mass atrocities were committed against the Rohingya, contradicting evidence collected by United Nations officials and numerous human rights organizations. There is currently a case before the International Court of Justice to determine whether Burma violated its obligation to prevent and punish genocide, as required by the UN Genocide Convention.

The Museum's **Simon-Skjoldt Center** is concerned about the potential for future atrocities against those Rohingya remaining in Burma and the plight of those displaced. More than one million Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh, where they live in overcrowded camps with poor conditions. We believe that, if they return to Burma, they will again face the threat of genocide.

**Prospects for justice in Burma remain dim if the military remains in power; the international community can support justice and accountability for the Rohingya by:**

- Supporting organizations collecting information and leading justice efforts.
- Elevating future leaders in Burma who are committed to restoring the rights of the Rohingya, including citizenship, freedom of movement, and access to healthcare and education.
- Ending the culture of impunity by supporting credible investigations and prosecutions against perpetrators.

**YOUR VOICE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

Learn more at [ushmm.org/burma](http://ushmm.org/burma)

*Previous page:* In September 2017, the north-south highway between Cox's Bazar and Tenaf had a steady flow of Rohingya refugees.  
*Greg Constantine for the US Holocaust Memorial Museum*



**WHAT YOU DO MATTERS.** We can all play a role in helping prevent genocide and related crimes against humanity. Action takes many forms, and every action counts. You can:

**Stay informed.** Follow the news. Visit our website to learn more about communities at risk, [ushmm.org/genocide-prevention/countries](http://ushmm.org/genocide-prevention/countries).

**Join the Simon-Skjoldt Center community.** Sign up to receive email updates and follow us on social media by visiting [ushmm.org/genocide-prevention/take-action](http://ushmm.org/genocide-prevention/take-action).

**Engage with your community.** Spread the word about what you've learned with friends, family, and colleagues.

**Support education and relief efforts.** Find out more about organizations that help, what they are doing in response to mass atrocities, and how you can assist.

**Contact the media.** Tell television, radio, newspaper, and online journalists that you want better coverage of places at risk of genocide and other mass atrocities; visit their websites, tag them on social media, call them, and send emails that provide feedback on their coverage.

**Contact your elected representatives.** Alert them to the need to protect civilians, stop the violence, provide humanitarian assistance if needed, and promote solutions to crises.

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**HOLOCAUST**  
MEMORIAL  
**MUSEUM**

**SIMON-SKJODT CENTER**  
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