The Rohingya are a Muslim minority group in the southeast Asian country of Burma (also known as Myanmar). Their government treats the Rohingya as outsiders and for decades has stripped them of citizenship as well as other basic rights and has subjected them to extreme violence.

The Museum has warned for many years about the risk of genocide and 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.

The Rohingya have also experienced widespread anti-Muslim hate speech and decades of restrictions that exclude them from the political and cultural life of the country. 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 within Burma to protect them and often have no practical way to seek justice, as they may be arrested and detained without cause.

Burma’s leaders have denied that mass atrocities have been committed against Rohingya victims, 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 has violated its obligation to prevent and punish genocide as required by the UN Genocide Convention.

“"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.""
The Museum’s Simon-Skjodt 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 from Burma to Bangladesh, where they now live in overcrowded camps with poor living conditions. We believe they will again face the threat of genocide if they return to Burma.

**To advance justice and accountability for the Rohingya, the Burmese government must:**

- Restore citizenship rights
- Lift movement restrictions
- Provide access to healthcare and educational opportunities
- Put an end to the culture of impunity by undertaking credible investigations and prosecutions against perpetrators

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