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5 December 2017

ORAL STATEMENT  
SPECIAL SESSION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION OF THE MINORITY ROHINGYA MUSLIM  
POPULATION AND OTHER MINORITIES IN THE RAKHINE STATE OF MYANMAR

**NEED FOR ACCOUNTABILITY FOR SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND CRIMES  
AGAINST HUMANITY COMMITTED AGAINST MINORITIES IN MYANMAR**

UN Human Rights Council  
Twenty-seventh special session  
5 December 2017

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the holding of this special session in light of the recent escalation of human rights violations and abuses by Myanmar state security forces against ethnic and religious minorities.

The attack on the Rohingya population in Rakhine State has been both systematic and widespread, constituting crimes against humanity.<sup>1</sup> Over 620,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh after security forces unleashed a campaign of violence killing an unknown number of Rohingya; raping Rohingya women and girls; laying landmines; and burning entire Rohingya villages.

In the backdrop to the current crisis, Rohingya in Rakhine State have been living under a state-sponsored system of apartheid which restricts virtually every aspect of their lives and segregate them from the rest of society. Their rights to a nationality, freedom of movement, access to health, education, work, food, freedom of thought, conscience and religion and to participate in public life are routinely and systematically violated on a discriminatory basis. Dismantling this system will be essential to ensure the safe and dignified return of the hundreds of thousands of Rohingya who have fled Myanmar. It is equally pressing for the hundreds of thousands who remain in Rakhine State.

Myanmar's security forces are also committing wide-ranging human rights violations against minorities in other parts of the country, in particular in Kachin and northern Shan States. Those violations include unlawful killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions, torture and forced labour.

Mr. President,

To date, there has been no accountability for the serious human rights violations committed by the Myanmar security forces, some of which constitute crimes against humanity. The Myanmar authorities continue to downplay the seriousness of the reports, while refusing to cooperate with the Fact Finding Mission created by this Council.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa16/7288/2017/en/>.

For any lasting and durable solutions to the situation in Rakhine state it is crucial that the Myanmar authorities immediately cease all ongoing human rights violations, dismantle the system of long-term discrimination and segregation of the Rohingya and ensure full accountability for perpetrators and justice for victims.

Thank you, Mr. President.