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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

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COMMITTEES:
SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON AGING,
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HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi
State Counsellor
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office No(8)
Naypyitaw

Dear Your Excellency:

The recent campaign of atrocities committed against the Rohingya people in Rakhine State represents a disappointing setback for Myanmar as a democratic nation. Nearly 690,000 have reportedly fled to Bangladesh amidst violence and threats of violence, and these refugees carry with them unimaginable stories of cruelty and depravity at the hands of the Burmese military.

While I appreciated your government's recent decision to grant UN representatives access to the Maungdaw district in Rakhine, many sites in Rakhine remain off-limits to UN investigators. I urge you immediately to allow officials from the United National Human Rights Council (UNHRC) access to the area so they can complete their UN-sanctioned fact-finding mission to understand what happened, assist victims, and identify those responsible for human rights abuses and violations.

In addition, repatriation of Rohingya refugees will require resources and capabilities only available to multinational organizations, such as the UN. If hundreds of thousands of refugees are forcibly returned to Rakhine without adequate resources and care, instability and suffering will only increase. Given the scale of this repatriation project, I encourage you to accept UN assistance from the UN and UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and their partners in the Rakhine State during the reparation project.

Your personal struggle and ultimate victory over the junta are testament to the potential of Myanmar to overcome violence and oppression. I encourage you to partner with the UN and its partners to complete an objective investigation and to begin the rebuilding process.

Sincerely,


Susan M. Collins
United States Senator