

JOINT CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENT ON MALAYSIA'S PLAN TO REFOULE ROHINGYA 23 September 2026

1. We, the undersigned 166 civil society organizations and more than 140 individuals from Malaysia and beyond, express grave concern over Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's proposal to seek Myanmar junta leader Min Aung Hlaing's cooperation to escalate the refoulement of 200,000 Rohingya to the genocidal conditions they have been fleeing. Although Malaysia vowed earlier this year not to endorse the sham election that allowed the junta leader to declare himself President, the Malaysian PM has announced he is inviting Min Aung Hlaing to discuss the mass refoulement of Rohingya sheltering in Malaysia.¹

2. Min Aung Hlaing is the architect of the ongoing genocide against Rohingya. It is important for Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim to remember that the International Criminal Court is currently deliberating the issuance of an arrest warrant for Min Aung Hlaing.² Universal jurisdiction cases have already been received in two ASEAN countries - Indonesia and Timor Leste - for the Rohingya genocide and other atrocity crimes. Refoulement of the Rohingya by Malaysia or any ASEAN member state will make them complicit in the ongoing genocide of the Rohingya.³

3. Rohingya are subjected to **forced conscription** by the junta, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), and the resistance Arakan Army (AA).⁴ Since 2024, the junta has forcibly recruited over 3,000 Rohingya from villages and displacement camps. Just weeks ago, on 29 Jul, the junta issued an order forcing Rohingya in Sittwe Township to provide one person from every household for conscription.⁵ Sending Rohingya into a situation of forced conscription will prolong and intensify rather than reduce the conflict, a key demand of ASEAN's Five Point Consensus.

4. Just this year alone, between 1 Jan and 30 Aug 2026, Min Aung Hlaing's troops inflicted **516 armed clashes** and attacks, including **176 air and/or drone strikes**, which killed **293 civilians** in 17 townships in Arakan State, the Rohingya homeland.⁶ Rohingya continue to face genocidal violence, including sexual assault, massacres, forced labor, arbitrary detention,

¹ [South China Morning Post \(16 Sep 2026\) Malaysia to invite Myanmar's Min Aung Hlaing for Rohingya repatriation talks](#)
Democratic Voice of Burma (20 Jan 2026) ASEAN will not certify Myanmar election or send observers, Malaysia says
<https://english.dvb.no/asean-will-not-certify-myanmar-election-or-send-observers-malaysia-says/>

² [International Criminal Court \(14 Nov 2019\) ICC judges authorise opening of an investigation into the situation in Bangladesh/Myanmar](#); [ICJ \(28 Nov 2024\) ICC Prosecutor's application for arrest warrant is a major step towards justice for the Rohingya](#)

³ [South China Morning Post \(16 Sep 2026\) Malaysia to invite Myanmar's Min Aung Hlaing for Rohingya repatriation talks](#)

⁴ [Myanmar Now \(11 Aug 2026\) 'One Rohingya from every household': Myanmar junta formalises forced conscription in Rakhine State](#); [The Diplomat \(21 Jun 2024\) Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh Pressured to Join Myanmar's Civil War](#)

⁵ [Myanmar Now \(11 Aug 2026\) 'One Rohingya from every household': Myanmar junta formalises forced conscription in Rakhine State](#)

⁶ [ACLED \(11 Sep 2026\) Data Accessed 11 Sep 2026](#)

human trafficking, and the destruction of villages and homes at the hands of the AA as well as the junta and its allies.⁷

5. Arakan State has the **second-highest number of displaced** persons in the country, with **498,000 IDPs**, which is **12.4%** of the country's 4 million IDPs. The UN has also predicted acute famine amidst the junta's blockade of humanitarian aid in Arakan State, which is also facing an economic catastrophe.⁸ The Rohingya suffer from poverty, acute food insecurity, preventable diseases, and inadequate living conditions in a worsening humanitarian situation amid funding cuts.⁹

6. We condemn Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's claim that Rohingya are a burden to Malaysia's security and economy.¹⁰ **This characterization is not only inaccurate but uses dehumanizing rhetoric to further criminalize and incite hate against Rohingya.** Rohingya refugees in Malaysia make up roughly **0.58%** of Malaysia's 34.4 million population¹¹ but they account for **0.02% of crimes** committed between 2024 and mid-2026.¹²

7. **Any repatriation must comply with the fundamental principle of non-refoulement:** People must not be returned to a country or territory where they face persecution, torture, serious human rights violations, or other irreparable harm. The UNHCR recognizes non-refoulement as a principle of customary international law that binds states regardless of whether or not they are party to the 1951 Refugee Convention.¹³

8. Malaysia has a legitimate interest in addressing the practical challenges associated with a large refugee population. But a "return" cannot be considered voluntary or lawful simply because the junta, that perpetrates genocide and atrocity crimes, agrees to receive people. **There must firstly be a halt to the atrocities that pushed refugees out of their country.** There must be meaningful voluntariness, informed consent, individual assessment, independent monitoring, and credible guarantees of safety, dignity, and fundamental rights before any return takes place. None of this is guaranteed under the Min Aung Hlaing-led junta.

9. **We call for the immediate halt to the planned deportations of Rohingya, and other people of Myanmar fleeing violence,** pending consultations with civil society organizations working on the ground, and a comprehensive assessment of the situation in Myanmar. **Malaysia's engagement with the junta must not come at the expense of its own reputation and integrity. The planned refoulement of Rohingya survivors of the genocide is inconsistent with Malaysia's strong stand against the genocide of Palestinians.** The escalating hate campaign against Rohingya in Malaysia appears to be a cynical tactic ahead of the Malaysian General Elections. It has contributed to the **incitement**

⁷ [OHCHR \(25 Aug 2026\) Nine years on: Rohingya continue to face atrocity crimes, mass displacement and deepening humanitarian crisis, warn UN experts](#); [Human Rights Watch \(18 May 2026\) "Skeletons and Skulls Scattered Everywhere" Arakan Army Massacre of Rohingya Muslims in Hoyyar Siri, Myanmar](#); [Fortify Rights \(Nov 2017\) They Tried to Kill us All - Atrocity Crimes against Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine State](#)

⁸ [UNHCR \(10 Aug 2026\) Operational Data Portal - Myanmar](#); [UNDP \(Nov 2024\) Rakhine: A Famine in the Making](#)

⁹ [OHCHR \(25 Aug 2026\) Nine years on: Rohingya continue to face atrocity crimes, mass displacement and deepening humanitarian crisis, warn UN experts](#)

¹⁰ [Free Malaysia Today \(16 Sep 2026\) Anwar to invite Myanmar president to expedite Rohingya repatriation](#)

¹¹ [Free Malaysia Today \(31 Jul 2026\) Malaysia's population remains at 34mil, 11 states now 'ageing'](#)

¹² [New Straits Times \(15 Jun 2026\) Only 0.02pct of crimes involve Rohingya, says IGP](#)

¹³ [UNHCR \(31 Jan 1994\) The Principle of Non-Refoulement as a Norm of Customary International Law](#)

and perpetration of violence against Rohingya children, women and men sheltering in Malaysia, **undermining the country's reputation and the rule of law.**

10. We call on the Malaysian Prime Minister and Malaysian authorities, as well as other governments in the region, to **take concrete actions to discourage and halt atrocity crimes in Myanmar, instead of demonizing and persecuting the victims of such crimes.** Cozying up to genocidaires while criminalizing their survivors is not only illogical but also immoral. Governments of the region should fulfil their Responsibility to Protect by allowing refugees access to civilian protection and permitting them to work legally so that they can sustain themselves and contribute to their host communities.

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Signing Organizations

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| 1. 5/ Lapantang Strike Column | 18. Asosiasaun Unidade Feto ba Desenvolvimento (AUFD) (Women's Unity for Development Association) |
| 2. Action for Change Foundation (ACF) | 19. ASR-ASSOCIATION of SPRING RAINBOW |
| 3. Al-Ikhlas Hope Society | 20. Assistance Association for Myanmar-based Independent Journalists (AAMIJ) |
| 4. All Arakan Youth Organizations Network (AAYON) | 21. Athan |
| 5. ALTSEAN-Burma | 22. Aung San Suu Kyi Park Norway |
| 6. Amazeyate | 23. Ayadaw Strike Committee |
| 7. Anti-junta Forces Coordination Committee Mandalay (AFCC Mandalay) | 24. Ayeyarwaddy West Development Organization (AWDO) |
| 8. Anti-Junta Alliance Yangon (AJAY) | 25. Ayeyawaddy Youth Network (AYN) |
| 9. Anyar Pyit Taing Htaung Lay Myar Strike Committee | 26. Beyond Borders |
| 10. Anyar Taw Eain | 27. Blood Money Campaign |
| 11. Arakan CSO Network | 28. Board of Education (BOE) |
| 12. Arakan Journal | 29. Budalin Strike Force |
| 13. Arakan Rohingya Union | 30. Burma Human Rights Network |
| 14. Arakan Youth Peace Network | 31. Canadian Burmese Rohingya Organization |
| 15. Asia Democracy Network (ADN) | 32. Carefugees |
| 16. Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA) | 33. CDM Medical Network (CDMMN) |
| 17. Asosiasaun Ema Afeita Lepra Timor Leste/ Timor Leste Leprosy Association | |

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| 34. Centro Comunidade Covalima (CCC) | 61. GEGAR (Gerakan Gabungan Anti-Imperialis) |
| 35. Channel Lian Direitus Umanus HAK | 62. General Strike Collaboration Committee (GSCC) |
| 36. Chin Community in Norway | 63. General Strike Coordination Body (GSCB) |
| 37. Chindwin Riverside Villages Strike Committee | 64. Global Myanmar Spring Revolution (GSMR) |
| 38. Civil Information Network (CIN) | 65. Greater Equitable Measures (GEM), Malaysia |
| 39. Codiva | 66. Home Vocational Training Center |
| 40. Comrades of Rohingya Youth | 67. Hpakant Hmawlae Strike Force |
| 41. Covalima Community Centre | 68. Human Rights Foundation of Monland |
| 42. CRPH Support Group, Norway | 69. India for Myanmar |
| 43. Dagon University Student's Union (DUSU) | 70. Info Birmanie |
| 44. Defend Myanmar Democracy | 71. Institutu Matadalan Integradu (IMI) |
| 45. Democratic Party for a New Society, Norway | 72. Interim University Council Mandalay University |
| 46. Doh Atu - Ensemble pour le Myanmar | 73. Islamic Renaissance Front |
| 47. Eastern Hill Civic Engagement Network (EHCEN) | 74. Kachin Association Norway |
| 48. Education and Wisdom Development for Rohingya Women (EWDRW) | 75. Kachin Women's Association Thailand |
| 49. Equality Myanmar | 76. Kalay Township People's Strike Steering Committee (KPSSC) |
| 50. Ethnic Youth General Strike Committee (Mandalay) | 77. Kani Township Strike Steering Committee |
| 51. Farmer Independence Force (FIF) | 78. Karen Peace Support Network |
| 52. Federation of Basic Education Worker Unions (FBEWU) | 79. Katha People's Strike Committee |
| 53. Free Medical Care for Refugee in Rakhine | 80. K'cho Ethnic Association (Europe) |
| 54. Free Rohingya Coalition (FRC) | 81. KHS |
| 55. Friends Against Dictatorship (FAD) | 82. Khunint Sin Kyaal (Humanitarian Aid) |
| 56. Fundasaun Casa Esperansa dos Orfanatos | 83. Kyae Lak Myay |
| 57. Fundasaun Centru Nossa Senhora do Rosario (CNSR) | 84. Kyauktada Strike Committee (KSC) |
| 58. Fundasaun Moris Hadomi Futuro (F-MHF) | 85. Lapantang Strike Column |
| 59. Fundasaun Pro Matan Diak | 86. Latpadaung Anti-coup Strike Force |
| 60. Garabtaag | 87. Latpadaung Region Strike Committee |
| | 88. Legal Aid for Human Rights |

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| 89. | LGBT Alliance Myanmar | 118. | People Movement Platform Myanmar |
| 90. | LSM Timor-Leste | 119. | Pōneke Anti Fascist Coalition |
| 91. | MAGGA Initiative | 120. | Progressive Muslim Youth Association (PMYA) |
| 92. | Magway People's Revolution Committee | 121. | Progressive Voice (PV) |
| 93. | Magway Region Human Rights Network | 122. | READ |
| 94. | Mandalay Medical Family (MFM) | 123. | Rede Solidariedade Internacional Timor-Leste (RSI-TL) International Solidarity Network Timor-Leste |
| 95. | Mandalay Strike Force (MSF) | 124. | Rohingya Community in Norway |
| 96. | Monywa People's Strike Steering Committee | 125. | Rohingya Empowered Women Voice (REWV) |
| 97. | Monywa-Amyint Road Strike Committee | 126. | Rohingya Maìyafuìnor Collaborative Network |
| 98. | Myanmar Catholic Community in Norway | 127. | Rohingya Refugee News (RRN) |
| 99. | Myanmar Community in Norway | 128. | Rohingya Students Network (RSN) |
| 100. | Myanmar Hindu Union | 129. | Rohingya Youth Advocacy Network |
| 101. | Myanmar Labour Alliance (MLA) | 130. | Rohingya Youth Union (RYU) |
| 102. | Myaung People Strike Steering Committee | 131. | Rohingya Youths for Change (RY4C) |
| 103. | MyaYar Knowledge Tree | 132. | RWAED (Rohingya Women for Education and Development) |
| 104. | Myingyan Civilian Movement Committee | 133. | Salin Township Administration |
| 105. | Network for Human Rights Documentation – Burma (ND-Burma) | 134. | Sentru ba Haburas Movimentu Direitus Umanus (SBHMDU) |
| 106. | New Myanmar Foundation | 135. | Shwebo Strike Force |
| 107. | New Rehmonnya Federated Force (NRFF) | 136. | Sidoktaya Education Group |
| 108. | NLD Organization Committee (International) Norway | 137. | Sisters2Sisters |
| 109. | North South Initiative | 138. | Sitt Nyein Pann Foundation |
| 110. | Norway Matu Community | 139. | TAB |
| 111. | Norway Rwwang Community | 140. | Tamar Institute of Development |
| 112. | NUG | 141. | Thint Myaet Lo Thu Myar |
| 113. | Nyan Lynn Thit Analytica | 142. | University of Medicine Mandalay Student Union Revolutionary Front (UMMSURF) |
| 114. | Olive | 143. | University Students' Unions Alumni Force |
| 115. | Pale People's Strike Steering Committee | 144. | Voice of Rohingya Women and Students (VRWS) |
| 116. | PAP | 145. | Volunteers in Myanmar |
| 117. | Peace Action Wellington | | |

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| 146. | Warm Hands Youth Initiative Group | 158. | Youth Empowerment |
| 147. | Wetlet Strike Committee | 159. | Youth for Democratization of Myanmar (UDM) |
| 148. | White Coat Society Yangon (WCSY) | 160. | Youth Resources Strike Committee Chaung U Township |
| 149. | Women Alliance Burma (WAB) | 161. | Youth Scout for Democracy (YSD) |
| 150. | Women Lead Resource Center | 162. | Zomi Christian Fellowship of Norway |
| 151. | Women's Peace Network | 163. | Zomi Community Norway |
| 152. | Yadanabon University Students' Union (YDNBUSU) | 164. | မျိုးဆက် - Generations |
| 153. | Yal Lal Kyun Women Network (YLKWN) | 165. | သမိုင်းသယ်ဆောင်သူများ - History Carriers (HC) |
| 154. | Yangon Deaf Group | 166. | ယိမ်းနွဲ့ပါး - Yain Nweh Par (Rainbow Win The Storm - RIS) |
| 155. | Yangon Federal Unit CDM Civil Servants Organization (YFCCO) | | |
| 156. | YCDC CDMer Group | | |
| 157. | Yinmarbin-Sarlingyi All Villages People Strike Leading Committee | | |

Signing Individuals

1. Aaron Dinesh	32. Emirensiana Nipu	64. Mali
2. Abdar Rahman	33. Fatimah	65. Mann Htun
3. Adaã Cristovão Ili-Doli	34. Filomena Mendonca	66. Manuel Boavida Hornai Soares
4. Agha	35. Gaspar Da Silva	67. Marina M
5. Alan Alegre (Philippines)	36. Gaspar Talibesi Martins	68. Mark Teh
6. Albert E. Alejo	37. Graciana Da Silva	69. Masjaliza Hamzah
7. Alberto Barros	38. Hamish Noonan	70. Maung Sawyeddollah
8. Alberto Barros	39. Helalodin	71. May Thiri Khine
9. Aminah Hanum Hussain	40. Ida Mariana Azmi	72. Megan Steven
10. Andrew Khoo	41. Ineza Roussille	73. Min Lay
11. Annawar Kyaw Gyi	42. Isak Sarmento	74. Minara
12. Antje Missbach	43. Isedoro Magno De Araujo	75. Mohammed Saber Khan Mohd Yasin
13. Askiah Adam	44. Ivonia Da Cruz	76. Mohammed Shamim
14. Aslan Jalil	45. Ivy N Josiah	77. Mohammed Zeyat
15. Aung Myo Oo	46. Jade	78. Mone Mhan
16. Aung Myo Thein	47. Jaguar	79. Moris Hadomi Futuro
17. Aung B	48. Januario De Fatima	80. Mu Sel
18. Aye Sein	49. Jay	81. Muhammad Zubair
19. Ayna Morzia	50. Joao Tinus	82. Myo Thant Zin
20. Azra Banu	51. Joel Costa Dos Santos	83. Nagar Gyi
21. Bendita De Jesus	52. Jose Luis De Oliveira	84. Naing Gyi
22. Bernardino De Jesua	53. Jules Mee Chi	85. Naw Elnor
23. Bhone Thit	54. Juliana Cardoso	86. Nidhi
24. Bo Bo	55. Kaleda Begum	87. Nine
25. Brave Rose	56. Kaung Kin	88. Nooraini Mohamed Ismail
26. Cristiana	57. Kim Mung	89. Norliza Nordeen
27. Dato' Dr Ahmad Farouk Musa	58. Ko Soe	90. Nurhayat Sultan
28. Daw Khin Khin Lay	59. Ko Zaw	91. Om Sein Pai
29. Dr. Thinn Thinn Hlaing	60. Lilianne Fan	92. Ospaldo Tilman
30. Elito Amaral	61. Lynn Khit	93. Patrick Poon
31. Emanuel Dobes Pinto	62. Mahi Ramakrishnan	94. Peachy
	63. Mal Khin	95. Phyo
		96. Rachel

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|-------------------------|--|
| 97. Razia Sultana | 134. Veronica De Sousa |
| 98. Rehana | 135. White Jasmine |
| 99. Rimas Khan | 136. Yar Yar |
| 100. Rofika | 137. Ywetthit |
| 101. Roshidah Noordin | 138. Zaw Myo Aung |
| 102. Roy A. Calfoforo | 139. Zaw Nyi Nyi Kyaw |
| 103. Rozana Isa | 140. Zee Pe |
| 104. Sadeka | 141. Zulkifli Yascob |
| 105. Sai King Mo | 142. Zung Ting |
| 106. Samurai | 143. ကျော်ဦး (Kyaw Oo) |
| 107. Santun Winn | 144. ဒေါ်ဝေဝေ (Daw Wai Wai) |
| 108. Saw Albert | |
| 109. Saw Lin Aung | |
| 110. Sayeka | |
| 111. Sein Hlaing | |
| 112. Sharon Joyce Bakar | And numerous people based in Myanmar whose names have been withheld for security reasons |
| 113. Shwe | |
| 114. Soe Aung | |
| 115. Soe Soe Myar | |
| 116. Soh | |
| 117. Spring Rose | |
| 118. Sularb | |
| 119. Sushila Kukathas | |
| 120. Syedul Mostafa | |
| 121. Than Kyaw Oo | |
| 122. Thandar | |
| 123. Thant Sitt | |
| 124. Tiger | |
| 125. Tint Zaw Hein | |
| 126. Too Naing | |
| 127. Tun Aung | |
| 128. U Kan Myint | |
| 129. U Kyi Aung | |
| 130. U Moe Lwin Oo | |
| 131. U Thu Ta | |
| 132. U Win Bo | |
| 133. U Zaw | |