

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Government of Burma to end the persecution of the
2 Rohingya people and respect internationally recognized human
3 rights for all ethnic and religious minority groups within
4 Burma.

5 WHEREAS, Over 800,000 Rohingya ethnic minority live in Burma,
6 mostly in the western Rakhine state; and

7 WHEREAS, Currently, approximately 140,000 Rohingya are
8 internally displaced in central Rakhine state and hundreds of
9 thousands have fled to neighboring countries, including at least
10 231,000 in Bangladesh, at least 15,000 in Malaysia and many more
11 in Thailand and Indonesia; and

12 WHEREAS, The Burma Citizenship Law of 1982 has long excluded
13 from approved ethnic groups the Rohingya people, despite many
14 having lived in northern Rakhine state for generations and has
15 thereby rendered the Rohingya stateless and vulnerable to
16 exploitation and abuse; and

17 WHEREAS, The Rohingya people have historically experienced
18 other particularized and severe legal, economic and social

1 discrimination, including restrictions on travel outside their
2 village of residence, limitations on their access to higher
3 education and a prohibition from working as civil servants,
4 including as doctors, nurses or teachers; and

5 WHEREAS, Authorities have also required the Rohingya to
6 obtain official permission for marriages and have singled out
7 the Rohingya in northern Rakhine state for forced labor and
8 arbitrary arrests; and

9 WHEREAS, The Government of Burma has forcefully relocated
10 Rohingya into relief camps, where they lack decent shelter,
11 access to clean water, food, sanitation, health care, the
12 ability to support themselves or basic education for their
13 children; and

14 WHEREAS, A two-child policy sanctioned solely upon the
15 Rohingya population in the districts of Maungdaw and Buthidaung
16 in northern Rakhine state restricts the rights of women and
17 children, prevents children from obtaining Burmese citizenship,
18 denies the Rohingya people access to basic government services
19 and fosters discrimination against Muslim women by Buddhist
20 nurses and midwives; and

21 WHEREAS, The United States Department of State has regularly
22 expressed, since 1999, its particular concern for severe legal,
23 economic and social discrimination against Burma's Rohingya
24 population in its Country Report for Human Rights Practices; and

25 WHEREAS, The level of persecution, including widespread
26 arbitrary arrest, detention and extortion of Rohingya and other
27 Muslim communities, has dramatically increased over the past
28 year and a half; and

29 WHEREAS, Communal violence has affected both Muslims and
30 Burma's majority Buddhist population, but has overwhelmingly

1 targeted Burma's ethnic Muslim minorities, which altogether
2 comprise less than 5% of Burma's population; and

3 WHEREAS, Violence targeting Rohingya in Maungdaw and Sittwe
4 in June and July of 2012 resulted in the deaths of at least 57
5 Muslims and the destruction of 1,336 Rohingya homes; and

6 WHEREAS, On October 23, 2012, at least 70 Rohingyas were
7 killed and the Yan Thei village of the Mrauk-U Township was
8 destroyed; and

9 WHEREAS, Violence has also targeted Muslims not of Rohingya
10 ethnicity, including riots in March 2013 in the town of Meiktila
11 that resulted in the death of at least 43 Burmese Muslims,
12 including 20 students and several teachers massacred at an
13 Islamic school, the burning of at least 800 homes and five
14 mosques and the displacement of 12,000 people; and

15 WHEREAS, On October 1, 2013, riots involving more than 700
16 Buddhists in Thandwe Township resulted in the death of four
17 Kaman Muslim men and the stabbing death of a 94-year-old Muslim
18 woman; and

19 WHEREAS, Over 4,000 religious, public and private Rohingya
20 structures have been destroyed; and

21 WHEREAS, The Rohingya have experienced and continue to
22 experience further restrictions on their practice of Islam,
23 culture and language; and

24 WHEREAS, The violence against ethnic Muslim populations,
25 including the Rohingya and other Muslim groups, is part of a
26 larger troubling pattern of violence against other ethnic and
27 religious minorities in Burma; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives call on the
29 Government of Burma to end all forms of persecution and
30 discrimination of the Rohingya people and ensure respect for

1 internationally recognized human rights for all ethnic and
2 religious minority groups within Burma; and be it further
3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives call on the
4 Government of Burma to reinstate the citizenship of all Rohingya
5 people previously denied citizenship; and be it further
6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives call on the
7 Federal Government and the international community to put
8 consistent pressure on the Government of Burma to take all
9 necessary measures to end the persecution and discrimination of
10 the Rohingya population and to protect the fundamental rights of
11 all ethnic and religious minority groups in Burma.