



26 July 2012

MUSLIMS AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF ISLAMIC COUNCILS INC.

Hand in hand for a brighter Australia.

The peak body for Australian Muslims
A.R.B.N 002 757 155

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Over 100

The Hon. Bob Carr,
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra, A.C.T. 2600

Dear Mr Carr,

In the past Australia has played a commendable role in bringing peace and security to various nations such as East Timor and others. Australia did the right thing disregarding any political or economic consequences. Australia, for long, has been championing the human rights of the Burmese people against the military dictatorship. What is happening to the Rohingya people is nothing short of genocide and ethnic/religious cleansing and we are doing nothing. Our silence in the midst of the tragic killings in Burma is deafening. It seems that the world community also does not care. Minister, will you raise your voice on behalf of the voiceless people of Burma?

The situation is not improving; rather, it is becoming alarmingly grave which has led to the withdrawal of UN agencies and NGO's from the Arakan state. Even though Martial Law has been imposed it is not at all effective as the perpetrators of the killings have the tacit support of the regime.

Minister, the Australian people have high hopes and expectations that your government will take the high moral ground and do something about the crisis sooner than later. I appeal to you to show leadership and courage in this crisis by positive and immediate actions. We urge you to take Australia to a new level on the international stage by your actions for justice and human rights for the Rohingya people of Myanmar.

Will Australia not show courage and act according to her heart and conscience? Will she not act with justice to alleviate the pain and suffering of these people? We will be behind you and your Government and we are sure that all Australians will do the same when you act to seek justice and humanity for the Rohingya community.

Yours Sincerely

Hafez Kassem
President of AFIC.