PRESS STATEMENT

Date.:24/04/2020.

Global Rohingya forum (GRF) urgently calls on the international community to mobilize the government agencies, medical communities, and health care organizations to protect Rohingya refugee communities in South and Southeast Asia (Myanmar, Bangladesh, India, Malaysia & Indonesia) during the current global health crisis of COVID-19 pandemic.

We understand everyone have been affected by this pandemic. The situation of Rohingya refugees is extremely vulnerable as most of us depend on daily wages to survive. Many Rohingya refugees are struggling to survive now as we do not have any saving. Most Rohingya refugees just stay at home without any means to get money to feed their family.

The internet blackouts in Northern Arakan and parts of Southern Bangladesh are making the health situation highly volatile. Educating Rohingya on healthcare, sanitation, and other prevention measures for COVID-19 through online education and information dissemination is virtually non-existent in refugee camps in Bangladesh and IDP camps and villages in Northern Arakan. Online education is the utmost important preventive measure at this stage.

We commend the International community and the Government of Bangladesh for taking significant steps in coordination with WHO, UNHCR, Red Cross, Red Crescent, and other agencies/NGOs, to prevent or management of the disease in the camp areas and beyond. Additional prevention measures can be implemented for the safeguard of the highly vulnerable Rohingya refugee community. We call on:

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1. Paying attention to the world health organization (WHO) and other international relief groups to deliver necessary medical, sanitation, and food supplies to the IDP camps in Arakan state and Bangladesh Refugees camps.

2. We call the international agencies to immediately draw up a fast track action plan to break the incoming wave of the COVID-19 to save the lives of the entrapped Rohingya refugees over the world.

3. We humbly request that the global humanitarian community and the Bangladeshi authorities act quickly and dedicate more funding to health services in the camps. As well, more Rohingya volunteers should be hired to help stop the spread of Covid-19. This is important because it would create income for Rohingya families, and it is easy for such people to deliver key information in their own language.

4. Educate refugees on health protection and the environment through the Internet through organizations operating in the camps

5. Train refugee youth for volunteering on environmental and health protection

6. The Government of Burma to swiftly implement concrete measures to safeguard the Rohingya and other IDP communities from COVID-19 via coordination with the international agencies.

7. Maintenance of camp houses where most of them have been exposed to apartments and ruins, which are shown with local tools, including reeds and plastic, for a short temporary period, which will not be more than three years. According to indications that the

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refugees will return to their homes, the camps must be at least for the medium term (at least ten years).

8. In particular, the international community and the United Nations are demanding more pressure on the government of Myanmar to comply with the orders of the International Court of Justice and to stop the violent practices against the remaining Rohingya Muslims inside Arakan, where they are subjected to various torture to death and wounded through mines laid in Arakan lands, as well as from the use of heavy weapons that They are used in wars and clashes relentlessly between the government and its opponents, and most are victims of the dead and wounded Rohingya in most provinces of Arakan State. The clashes did not stop until the time of the Coruna virus outbreak.

9. The pressure on the Government of Burma to allow the international relief groups to deliver necessary medical, sanitation, and food supplies to the IDP camps in Arakan.

10. The Governments of Burma and Bangladesh to lift internet blackouts in Arakan and camp areas in Southern Bangladesh during this global health crisis in order to disseminate COVID-19 and other health related information. It is a critical issue that the governments need to address immediately.

We also express our gratitude and appreciation

to **Dr.Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimeen, the Secretary General of OIC** for their comprehensive and tireless efforts for advancement of the interest of Rohingyas in the UN and international level in partnership with all **OIC** member States.

The Global Rohingya Forum (GRF)
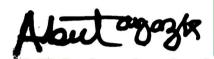is an Umbrella group for Rohingya Organizations from around the world.

Especially we express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh Government.

We affirm our commitment to work and cooperate with OIC and Bangladesh government for repatriation process of Rohingya Refuges as soon as possible with sustainable solution.

This statement is endorsed and signed

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