



## AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL IMAMS COUNCIL



Date: 09/09/2017

### **PRESS STATEMENT**

#### **ANIC Strongly Condemns the Ongoing Persecution of the Rohingya People by the Myanmar Regime**

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) strongly condemns the ongoing persecution of the Rohingya people by the Myanmar regime or action to help the tragic situation for persecuted Rohingya people fleeing Myanmar.

As a Muslim minority in Rakhine or Arakan state in western Burma (Myanmar), the Rohingya have suffered brutal oppression and official discrimination since the country's current rulers took power. Due to current conditions, around 21,000 of the Rohingya have fled horrific atrocities within the space of two months.

Buddhist extremists have led a campaign of hate targeted towards Muslim businesses in Rakhine state. Communal violence in June and October 2012 and March 2014 resulted in many casualties, with thousands of homes and businesses destroyed.

The Myanmar regime must thus bring an end once-and-for-all to its apartheid policies and inhumane treatment of the Rohingya people who have suffered grave injustices for decades.

The Australian National Imams Council calls upon the international community in particular the Australian Government to use all diplomatic and economic means available to pressure the Myanmar regime to end this ethnic cleansing. Australia should also provide immediate humanitarian aid to the thousands of victims and refugees and offer asylum to the most persecuted.

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