



## **Timeline of International Response to the Situation of the Rohingya and Anti-Muslim Violence in Burma/Myanmar**

This timeline provides a chronological list of important responses and actions from national and international actors since anti-Muslim violence erupted in June 2012.

Skip to: [\[2013\]](#) [\[2014\]](#) [\[Most Recent\]](#)

### **June 2012**

10 June

- **President Thein Sein** declares a state of emergency in Arakan/Rakhine state after deadly clashes between Buddhists and ethnic Rohingya Muslims, killing at least 88 people and displacing over 90,000.

11 June

- **Organization of Islamic Cooperation** Secretary-General Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu expresses grave concern over and condemns violence against Rohingyas in Arakan/Rakhine state. ([Statement](#))

### **July 2012**

12 July

- **President Thein Sein** tells the UN High Commissioner for Refugees that the government will take responsibility for its own ethnic nationalities, but it is “not at all possible to recognize the illegal border-crossing Rohingyas who are not our ethnicity.” He says the Rohingya pose a threat to national security and that they should be resettled in any third country that is “willing to take them.”

15 July

- **Organization of Islamic Cooperation** Secretary-General Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu condemns renewed repression and human rights violations against Rohingya Muslims, as well as the government's continued persecution and discrimination against them. ([Statement](#))

27 July

- **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights** Navi Pillay expresses concern over reports of human rights violations committed by security forces in Arakan/Rakhine state against Muslims, particularly Rohingyas, and calls for a prompt, independent investigation. She calls upon national leaders to speak out against discrimination, the exclusion of minorities and racist attitudes. ([Statement](#))

## August 2012

4 August

- **UN Special Rapporteur** on the human rights situation in Myanmar, Tomás Ojea Quintana, concludes six-day visit to Burma/Myanmar, reporting that the country "continues to grapple with serious human rights challenges," particularly in Arakan/Rakhine state. He calls for an independent investigation into allegations of human rights abuses and excessive use of force by security and police in response to the June violence. ([Statement](#))

6 August

- **UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser for Myanmar** Vijay Nambiar and the **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**, Navi Pillay, call for an impartial investigation into the violence in Arakan/Rakhine state.

## September 2012

25 September

- **UN Special Rapporteur** on the human rights situation in Myanmar, Tomás Ojea Quintana, releases a report on the human rights situation, saying the country continues to grapple with serious human rights challenges. ([Report](#))

29 September

- **UN Secretary-General** Ban Ki-Moon meets with President Thein Sein to discuss the situations in Kachin and Arakan/Rakhine states. President Thein Sein commits to addressing root causes of the violence in Arakan/Rakhine state.

## October 2012

18 October

- **Buddhist monks** gather at the All-Arakanese Monks' Solidarity Conference, calling for Rohingya "sympathizers," including those advocating for the protection of their human rights, as "national traitors."

21 October

- Sectarian violence reignites across nine townships in Arakan/Rakhine state, displacing another 35,000 people, mostly Muslims.

25 October

- **UN Special Rapporteur** on the human rights situation in Myanmar, Tomás Ojea Quintana, expresses his concern over continuing violence in Arakan/Rakhine state. He calls upon the government to prevent further violence and engage in dialogue to resolve longstanding concerns, including the "endemic discrimination against the Rohingya community." ([Press Conference Statement](#))

27 October

- **Organization for Islamic Cooperation** condemns renewed violence against Rohingya Muslims urges the government of Burma/Myanmar to "deploy concrete measures to put an end to the aggressive acts against Muslims," ensure their safety, and bring perpetrators to justice. ([Statement](#))

30 October

- **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretary-General** Surin Pitsuwan reports that the government of Burma/Myanmar has rejected an offer by ASEAN to open tripartite talks between ASEAN, the UN, and the government aimed at quelling the violence in Arakan/Rakhine state. ([Source](#))

31 October

- **UN experts** on Myanmar, Minority Issues and Internally Displaced Persons release a statement expressing deep concern over continuing inter-communal violence in Arakan/Rakhine state and reminding the government of its obligation to protect those affected by violence, particularly the Rohingya Muslims. ([Statement](#))

## November 2012

9 November

- **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights** Navi Pillay calls upon the government of Burma/Myanmar to review the 1982 Citizenship Law, which rendered Rohingya Muslims stateless, "to ensure that Rohingya have equal access to citizenship."

19 November

- **United States President** Barack Obama meets with President Thein Sein and Aung San Suu Kyi, becoming the first sitting US president to visit Burma/Myanmar.

26 November

- **UN General Assembly** adopts a resolution on the human rights situation in Burma/Myanmar, expressing concern about ongoing violations, and calling upon the government “to address the continuing armed conflict in Kachin State and the outbreak of deadly violence in Rakhine State, and the discrimination and human rights violations affecting ethnic minorities, especially the Rohingya.” ([Resolution](#))

28 November

- **Association of Southeast Asian Nations Inter-Parliamentary Caucus** releases a statement welcoming the 26 November UN General Assembly resolution and warning that the government’s refusal to recognize the Rohingya could exacerbate inter-communal tensions and the spread of violence.

## December 2012

24 December

- **UN General Assembly** adopts a resolution expressing concern about violence in Kachin and Arakan/Rakhine state, and the situation of Rohingyas, and calling upon the government to accelerate its effort to address discrimination, human rights violations, and violence affecting various ethnic minorities, and to take all necessary actions to protect civilians. ([Resolution](#))

## January 2013

27 January

- **World Bank** announces that Burma/Myanmar’s arrears to the World Bank and Asian Development Bank have been cleared with the help of the Japanese government, and approves a \$440 million credit to the country. The Asian Development Bank grants a \$512 million credit.

## February 2013

16 February

- **UN Special Rapporteur** on the human rights situation in Myanmar, Tomás Ojea Quintana, releases a statement at the conclusion of a five-day visit to the country, saying there are significant human rights shortcomings and a gap between reforms at the top and implementation on the ground. He calls upon the government and armed groups to ensure the protection of civilians in Kachin state, and urges the government to remove discriminatory regulations imposed upon Rohingya. ([Statement](#))

## March 2013

19 March

- **UN Human Rights Council** adopted a resolution urging the government to ensure accountability for those responsible for violence in Arakan/Rakhine state, facilitate effective humanitarian assistance and end discrimination against Rohingya. ([Resolution](#))

20 March

- Inter-communal violence between Buddhists and Muslims engulfs the town of Meikhtila, in central Mandalay, and sweeps through several other regions, killing at least 40 and displacing another 12,000.

22 March

- President Thein Sein declares a state of emergency in Meikhtila.

25 March

- **UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide**, Adama Dieng, releases a statement expressing concern over increased violence in Meikhtila. He warns of the considerable risk of further violence unless the government implements measures to prevent escalation and protect populations at risk. ([Statement](#))

28 March

- **UN Special Rapporteur** on human rights in Myanmar, Tomás Ojea Quintana, expresses concern over the spread of violence between Muslim and Buddhist communities and calls upon the government to take immediate action to stop it from spreading. He says the government has not done enough to address the spread of discrimination and prejudice against Muslim communities. ([Statement](#))

## April 2013

2 April

- **ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Myanmar Caucus** expresses concern over violence between Buddhists and Muslim communities and urges the government of Burma/Myanmar to work to end discrimination and combat intolerance among religious groups in order to avoid further violence. ([Press Release](#))

14 April

- **Organization of Islamic Cooperation Contact Group on Rohingya Muslim Minority**<sup>1</sup> convenes at the Ministerial level in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, condemning the spread of anti-Muslim violence in Burma/Myanmar, including atrocities committed against Rohingyas, and calling upon the government to ensure Buddhist extremists put an end to the use of force and violence. ([Final Communiqué](#))

---

<sup>1</sup> The OIC Contact Group on the Rohingya includes Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Bangladesh, Djibouti, Turkey, Afghanistan, and the United Arab Emirates.

17 April

- **UN Special Rapporteur** on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Tomás Ojea Quintana, releases a report welcoming progress being made by the Government of Burma/Myanmar, but expresses deep concern over the situation in Rakhine State, discrimination against Rohingya, and the ongoing human rights violations in Kachin State. He says that government reforms are not meeting international human rights standards. ([Report](#))

22 April

- **European Union** lifts all sanctions against Burma/Myanmar with the exception of the arms embargo and the embargo on equipment which might be used for internal repression. ([Document](#))

23 April

- **Human Rights Watch** releases a report after an investigation into the role of the central government and local authorities during the June and October 2012 violence in Arakan/Rakhine state, finding that “the criminal acts committed against the Rohingya and Kaman Muslim communities in Arakan State beginning in June 2012 amount to crimes against humanity carried out as part of a campaign of ethnic cleansing.” ([Report](#))

29 April

- **Rakhine State Conflicts Investigation Commission** releases its report on the June and October 2012 sectarian violence, calling upon the government to increase humanitarian support to displacement camps and ensure that the human rights of all groups are protected. The report recommends the increased presence of security forces in the area. ([Report summary and recommendations](#))

## May 2013

1 May

- **UN Special Rapporteur** on human rights in Myanmar, Tomás Ojea Quintana, welcomes the report of the Rakhine Investigation Commission but expresses concern over the lack of recommendations to address impunity and ensure investigations into the widespread human rights violations targeting Muslims in Arakan/Rakhine state. ([Statement](#))

2 May

- **United States President** Barack Obama extends current US sanctions against Burma/Myanmar for one year, while lifting the 1996 visa ban. ([Document](#))

20 May

- **Government authorities** in Maungdaw District, Arakan/Rakhine state impose a two-child limit on Rohingya families.

22 May

- **Burma/Myanmar's Parliament** extends the state of emergency in Meikhtila for 60 days.
- **ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Myanmar Caucus** expresses its support for a resolution drafted by Organization of Islamic Cooperation members on anti-Muslim violence and human rights issues in Burma/Myanmar to be brought before the UN Human Rights Council. ([Press Release](#))

26 May

- **Government of Japan** grants a loan of \$504 million, the first loan to Burma/Myanmar in 26 years, and cancels the remainder of the country's debt, saying that the Japanese government backs the progress of Burma/Myanmar's reforms.

28 May

- Anti-Muslim violence breaks out in Lashio, Shan state. Buddhist rioters destroy a mosque, orphanage and Muslim-owned businesses, displacing at least 1,400 Muslims.

31 May

- **UN Special Rapporteur** on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Tomás Ojea Quintana calls upon Burma/Myanmar's Central Government to respond to the revival of the local order limiting Rohingya families to two children, saying the order "is a clear-cut human rights violation targeting a particular ethnic and religious group." ([Statement](#))
- **European Union** appoints Roland Kobia as Head of the EU Delegation to Burma/Myanmar, the EU's first ambassador to the country. ([Statement](#))

## June 2013

13 June

- **European Union** adopts a resolution condemning the grave violations of human rights and the violence perpetrated against Rohingya Muslims and urging the government to ensure the protection of Rohingya and to authorize the establishment of a UN human rights office within the country to allow for adequate monitoring of the human rights situation. ([Resolution](#))

14 June

- **UN Human Rights Council** expresses deep concern at the gross violations of human rights in Burma/Myanmar, in particular against Rohingya and other Muslims in Arakan/Rakhine state, urging the government to take immediate measure to end all acts of violence and to grant full citizenship rights to Rohingya. ([Presidential Statement](#))
- **Buddhist monks** meet at a Buddhist leaders' conference in Yangon and propose an interfaith marriage law to impose restrictions on Buddhist women seeking to marry a Muslim man, including making it necessary to obtain permission from authorities and for the Muslim man to convert to Buddhism.

17 June

- **UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Myanmar** Ashok Nigam reports that 140,000 people remain displaced since the June and October 2012 violence in Arakan/Rakhine state which caused the death of 167 people and destroyed over 10,000 buildings. He calls upon the government to address the citizenship status of stateless Muslims. ([Statement](#))

19 June

- **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights** Navi Pillay calls upon the government of Burma/Myanmar to tackle the continuing discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities, saying “the ongoing human rights violations against the Rohingya community in Rakhine State, and the spread of anti-Muslim sentiment across the State and beyond, is threatening the reform process and requires focused attention from the Government.” ([Statement](#))

## July 2013

1 July

- **Government of Malaysia** urges Burma/Myanmar to take stronger action to prevent the persecution of Muslims.

7 July

- **Organization for Islamic Cooperation** Secretary-General Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu urges the government of Burma/Myanmar to assume its responsibility to eradicate all incitement and discrimination against Muslims, including the law limiting Rohingya families to two children. ([Statement](#))

11 July

- **Government of Indonesia** urges Burma/Myanmar to address the citizenship status of Rohingya Muslims so they have access to the same legal rights as “the rest of their countrymen.”

14 July

- **President Thein Sein** announces the disbandment of the border security force, NaSaKa, which was long-accused of committing grave human rights violations against the Rohingya, including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrest and detention, and torture.

16 July

- **UN Special Rapporteur** on the human rights situation in Myanmar welcomes the abolition of the NaSaKa and urges authorities to hold accountable members of the force responsible for human rights abuses. ([Statement](#))

20 July

- **President Thein Sein** lifts the state of emergency in Meikhtila, saying the situation there has stabilized.

22 July

- **European Union** adopts a Comprehensive Framework defining the EU's policy and support until 2015 to ongoing reforms in Burma/Myanmar, pledging to press the government to address the causes and prevent further outbreaks of inter-communal violence, ensure the accountability of all offenders, address the human rights and humanitarian needs of the populations in Arakan/Rakhine state, and address the welfare needs and status of the Rohingya. ([Comprehensive Framework](#))

## August 2013

13 August

- **UN High Commissioner for Refugees** calls for peaceful dialogue between the government and Muslim IDPs in Arakan/Rakhine state after clashes on 9 August between Muslims and security forces left one dead and 10 injured. ([Briefing Notes](#))

19 August

- **UN Secretary-General** Ban Ki-Moon releases his annual report to the UN General Assembly on the human rights situation in Myanmar, raising concern over human rights violations against the Rohingya and the plight of the wider Muslim community. He calls upon the government to address the issue of Rohingya citizenship and hold accountable those disseminating hate literature and killing innocent people. ([Report](#))

20 August

- **ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights** expresses concern over reports of inhumane conditions in which Thai authorities are holding Rohingya asylum seekers, as well as the lack of legal protections being offered to them, and calls upon Thailand to address these concerns and to ensure that Rohingya fleeing persecution in Burma/Myanmar are not forcibly returned. ([Statement](#))

21 August

- **UN Special Rapporteur** on the human rights situation in Myanmar, Tomás Ojea Quintana, releases a statement at the conclusion of a ten-day visit to the country, saying that displaced Muslims in Rakhine state are still being denied fundamental human rights. He also describes his car being attacked by a crowd of around 200 people while police stood by, saying that the government failed to protect him. ([Statement](#))

22 August

- **UN Special Rapporteur** on the human rights situation in Myanmar, Tomás Ojea Quintana, warns about the need for reconciliation with ethnic groups and the spread of incitement of hatred against religious minority groups. ([Statement](#))

25 August

- **Buddhist rioters** burn down dozens of Muslim-owned homes and shops in Kanbalu, Sagaing Division.

26 August

- **ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights** says the government of Burma/Myanmar is not doing enough to reduce inter-communal tensions and prevent anti-Muslim violence, raising the prospect of widespread conflict. They call upon the government to protect those who have lost their homes as a result of ongoing violence and to ensure against the permanent segregation of Muslims. ([Statement](#))

## October 2013

1 October

- Inter-communal violence that began on 29 September in Thandwe spreads to several other villages in Arakan/Rakhine state. Reports suggest at least 480 people were displaced, while at least 5 people were killed and 110 homes, mostly belonging to Muslims, were burned down.

3 October

- **President Thein Sein** says the government will use all means, without discrimination on the ground of race and religion, to restore peace and stability and ensure the rule of law in Arakan/Rakhine state. ([Statement](#))

6 October

- **UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs** publishes findings of its two-day assessment mission to Thandwe, Arakan/Rakhine state, reporting that protection concerns continue to restrict villagers' freedom of movement and calling upon the government to provide security and hold accountable those responsible for violence. ([Report](#))

18 October

- **ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights** calls upon European Parliamentarians and Aung San Suu Kyi to place the anti-Muslim violence in Burma/Myanmar and discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities at the top of the agenda during her visit to Europe. ([Statement](#))

22 October

- **UN Special Rapporteur** on the human rights situation in Myanmar, Tomás Ojea Quintana, releases a report on the human rights situation following his eighth mission to the country. He expresses his concern about the spread of anti-Muslim sentiment and says that in Arakan/Rakhine state there is "little evidence that the Government has taken steps to tackle the underlying causes of the communal violence." ([Report](#))

## November 2013

3 November

- A boat carrying over 70 Rohingya fleeing persecution at home capsizes off the coast of Sittwe, killing all but 8 passengers.

5 November

- **UN High Commissioner for Refugees** deplores the loss of life in the Rohingya boat tragedy, saying, “It is unacceptable that people are driven by such desperation into life-risking journeys.” ([Statement](#))

15 November

- **Organization of Islamic Cooperation** delegation visits Arakan/Rakhine state to investigate the situation of Rohingyas and meet with representatives of Buddhist and Muslim communities. Buddhist monks lead over 3,000 protestors in demonstrations against the delegation’s arrival.

19 November

- **UN General Assembly 3rd Committee** passed a resolution on “the human rights situation in Myanmar,” urging the government to grant equal access to full citizenship for the Rohingya minority and to address the root causes of attacks against Muslim minorities elsewhere in the country. ([Resolution](#))

## December 2013

16 December

- **European Union** welcomes the 19 November General Assembly resolution and calls upon the government to address the underlying causes of inter-communal violence and the welfare needs of the Rohingya, promote religious and ethnic tolerance, and adopt a “zero tolerance approach to violence extremism.” ([Council Conclusions](#))

## January 2014

9 January

- Eight Rohingya Muslim are attacked and killed by local residents in Du Chee Yar Tan village in Maungdaw Township, Arakan/Rakhine state.

13 January

- After clashes between Buddhist and Rohingya residents in Du Chee Yar Tan village, a police sergeant is captured and killed by Rohingyas. That evening, Buddhist residents and police attack and kill at least 40 Rohingya men, women and children.

17 January

- **UN Special Rapporteur** on the human rights situation in Myanmar, Tomás Ojea Quintana, urges the government to conduct an independent investigation and clarify reports about Du Char Yar Tan clashes and hold perpetrators of human rights violations accountable. ([Press Release](#))

22 January

- **Chief Minister of Rakhine State**, U Hla Maung Tin, visits Du Chee Yar Tan village to investigate the violence and dismisses the “false news published and aired by foreign media that children and women were killed.” ([Statement](#))

23 January

- **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights** Navi Pillay urges the government to demonstrate transparency and accountability by conducting an investigation into the “credible reports” of clashes and deaths of Rohingyas. ([Statement](#))
- **UN Humanitarian Affairs Coordinator** Valerie Amos expresses concern about the violence and killing of civilians in Maungdaw Township, and calls upon the government to ensure the protection of all civilians, ensure humanitarian access to affected areas, and launch an impartial investigation into the events. ([Statement](#))