



**Council on American-Islamic Relations**

**Georgia Chapter**

P.O. Box 942134

Atlanta GA 30341

404-285-9530

emitchell@cair.com

September 12, 2017

The Honorable David Perdue  
United States Senate  
455 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Perdue:

We write to request that you join your Senate colleagues in supporting two separate bills related to the ongoing crisis in Myanmar.

First, we ask that you join Senator Cory Gardner in co-sponsoring Senate amendment 607 (SA 607) to S.1519, the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The amendment would strike a proposed expansion of American military assistance to Myanmar's regime, which is currently engaged in a campaign of ethnic cleaning against its Rohingya Muslim population.

Over the past two weeks, Burmese soldiers have traveled from village to village in Rakhine State, committing mass murder, rape, and arson along the way. Survivors, bystanders, and even perpetrators have posted video footage online showing Rohingya men, women and children being beaten to death, dismembered, and burned alive, among other acts of brutality.

These latest acts of violence have sent thousands of survivors fleeing for Myanmar's closed border with Bangladesh, thereby sparking an international humanitarian crisis. Indeed, Georgia is now home to thousands of Burmese-Americans who fled persecution in Myanmar.

This violence has gone too far, and gone on for far too long. If the international community fails to stop the first genocide of the twenty-first century, Myanmar may soon become synonymous with Rwanda and Bosnia.

Although the United States cannot and should intervene in every global humanitarian crisis, our nation should not contribute to this crisis by expanding military-to-military cooperation with Burma's government. As you know, the Obama Administration lifted many sanctions on Myanmar when its military dictatorship took small steps towards becoming a democratic government. Sadly, Myanmar simultaneously took even longer steps towards becoming a genocidal government.

The United Nations issued a report in February 2017 alleging that the Burmese government has spent years engaging in behavior that "very likely" constitutes crimes against humanity and ethnic cleaning. Myanmar refused to grant entry visas to United Nations investigators charged with examining these allegations. In doing so, Myanmar violated its obligations as a member of the international community as well its promises to the United States.

We therefore hope that you will also join Senator John McCain in co-sponsoring Senate Resolution 250, which would condemn the violence in Myanmar, encourage de facto Burmese leader Aung San Suu Kyi to do the same, demand that Myanmar an investigation by the United Nations, and demand that Myanmar grant citizenship to its Rohingya population.

The world failed to intervene in Rwanda. The world failed to intervene in Srebrenica. The world still has a chance to act with decisive moral clarity in Myanmar. Our nation cannot allow the Burmese regime to use American diplomatic, economic, or military support to commit genocide.

To that end, we ask you to support Senate amendment 607 to the NDAA, as well as Senate Resolution 250.

With thanks,

**Edward Ahmed Mitchell, Esq.**  
Executive Director  
Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Georgia Chapter

**Mr. Mohammad Ayub**  
Executive Director  
Burmese Rohingya Community of  
Georgia