

**G25: As we did Bosnians, M'sia must champion Rohingya**  
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Recalling that Malaysia was once at the forefront of efforts to assist the Bosnians during their experience with Serbian ethnic cleansing, the G25 group of eminent Malays urged Malaysia to do the same for the persecuted Rohingya minority in Myanmar.

"Malaysia was at the forefront of international efforts to help the Bosnians - contributing financial assistance, as well as sending troops in the peace keeping; also playing a very pronounced role in galvanising support for the Bosnians, within the OIC and at the UN - for a just solution," said the group in a statement.

As such the group posited that Malaysia should now stand up and be counted for the minority currently being brutally treated by extremists in a "pogrom" of extermination with the seeming complicity of the Myanmar government.

While admitting that there was a global "fatigue" with the refugee problem, given its scale, G25 urged Malaysia to examine ways we could help the Rohingya.

"To begin with, we must first examine our own attitude towards them. There are 57,570 Rohingya who have been accorded temporary shelter in Malaysia," said the group in a statement.

G25 suggested that Malaysia helped make their lives less miserable by giving them some basic human needs, which it had denied Rohingya refugees thus far.

"For instance, we should give them access to medical treatment; their children should be allowed to go to schools; those born here should be given papers; and, they should be allowed to work in the sectors that our country still has to import labour," said the group.

G25 also called for Malaysia to investigate and take action against the death camps found at the border with Thailand, for which, to date no one had been held accountable.

The group also mooted for Malaysia to follow through such domestic efforts to help the Rohingya with advocacy at the regional and international levels like it did for the Bosnians last time.

"At the regional/international levels, Malaysia should, bring the matter up formally at the Association of East Asian Nations, the Organisation of Islamic Countries and the United Nations and other relevant international forums," added G25.

G25 also voiced its condemnation of the Government of Myanmar, for actively encouraging and instituting, what amounted to ethnic cleansing against its Rohingya community.

It cited international press, international agencies and UN bodies confirming whole villages being razed to the ground, with the inhabitants still inside their houses, as well as other

fundamental human rights denied, with Rohingya women raped and the men murdered.

G25 regretted that even the people leading the pro-democracy movement in Myanmar, such as Aung San Suu Kyi has refused to talk about the problem, pretending as if it did not exist.

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