

OIC Holds Meetings To Mobilise Support For Rohingyas
Bernama
July 30, 2012

KUALA LUMPUR, July 30 (Bernama) -- The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) will convene several meetings to mobilise support and take practical measures to help the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, especially those who have been subjected to a systematic campaign of ethnic cleansing during the last two months and more.

The OIC plans to hold the meetings at both Islamic and international levels at various Islamic capitals, an OIC statement quoting informed sources said.

Last Friday, the OIC held a meeting with representatives of its 57 member states in Geneva to devise a mechanism for international action to seek solutions to the ongoing Rohingya crisis.

The Geneva meeting had shed light on the difficulty faced in sending a fact-finding delegation to Myanmar. It also stressed the importance of allowing OIC member state ambassadors into Myanmar to assess the situation of Muslims in the country.

The Rohingyas are essentially Muslim people who reside in the Arakan region. As of this year, about 800,000 Rohingyas live in Myanmar and according to the United Nations, they are among the most persecuted minorities in the world.

According to a statement by Myanmar's National Human Rights Commission on July 11, at least 78 people have been killed since the violence began, but unofficial estimates put the number at over 100, even as some 50,000 (the lower figures attributed to the government and UN agencies) to 90,000 people are estimated to have been displaced.

Meanwhile, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said, along with the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), it had been providing basic but vital assistance to the Muslim communities affected by inter-communal violence in the Rakhine state of western Myanmar.

Deputy Head of Operations for Asia and the Pacific, Anne Ryniker, said that an emergency ICRC team comprising national and international staff stationed in Sittwe (capital of Rakhine State, Myanmar) had been providing the MRCS with technical, logistical and financial support since June 16.

Soon after the outbreak of violence, MRCS volunteers had stepped in to provide assistance to the displaced people at 17 main sites which includes first-aid for about 2,000 wounded people, psychological support for over 1,500 people, and help with water and sanitation, she said in an interview posted on the ICRC website.

She said two water-purification plants were installed for civilians from both communities - one in Sittwe and the other in the village of Thee Chaung - while clean water was being distributed directly to more than 8,000 people at 116 different sites.

Basic items such as cooking sets, tarpaulins and soap were also distributed, she added.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2012 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v6/newsindex.php?id=684233>

