Burma Human Rights Network

PRESS RELEASE
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U.K.: Build on Rohingya Genocide Recognition with U.N. Security Council Enforcement

LONDON, 25 November 2026 - The U.K. government should build on its new sanctions and planned aviation fuel ban by pressing the United Nations Security Council to impose a global arms and jet fuel embargo on Myanmar's military junta, said the Burma Human Rights Network (BHRN) today.

On 23 November 2026, U.K. Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband formally recognized that Myanmar committed genocide against the Rohingya following the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) 19 November ruling. The U.K. government also imposed asset freezes and travel bans on five senior military commanders, pledged legislation to ban the export and supply of aviation fuel to Myanmar, and committed £8 million in new humanitarian and justice funding, following its expulsion of Myanmar's defense attaché last week.

"*Formal recognition finally affirms the truth Rohingya survivors have fought years to have heard, but the junta is still bombing civilians every day*," said Kyaw Win, Executive Director of the Burma Human Rights Network. "*The U.K. has set an important precedent in Westminster. Now it must carry that momentum to New York and push the U.N. Security Council to cut off the military's weapons and jet fuel*."

In its 19 November judgment in The Gambia v. Myanmar, the ICJ, the U.N.'s highest court, ruled for the first time in its history that a state is responsible for committing genocide under the 1948 Genocide Convention. The Court ordered Myanmar to punish perpetrators, provide reparations to survivors, and facilitate the safe, voluntary, and dignified return of displaced Rohingya.

Myanmar's military junta rejected the ICJ judgment as "unfair," while regime propagandists and Buddhist ultranationalist networks have flooded social media with disinformation distorting the ruling, portraying the verdict as an attack on national sovereignty and demanding that Islamic organizations publicly deny the existence of the Rohingya. Meanwhile, more than 1.2 million Rohingya remain in refugee camps in Bangladesh, while safe return to Rakhine State remains impossible amid ongoing junta atrocities and widespread abuses against remaining Rohingya in territory now controlled by the Arakan Army.

The U.K. and France have requested a dedicated U.N. Security Council session on Myanmar in early December, following initial discussions at the Council this week. Under Article 94 of the U.N. Charter, the Security Council holds the authority to enforce compliance with ICJ judgments through binding resolutions.

BHRN urged the U.K. government to ensure its promised aviation fuel legislation leaves no loopholes, explicitly prohibiting U.K.-linked brokering, shipping, and maritime insurance, and moves through Parliament without delay. At the upcoming Security Council session, the U.K. should introduce a resolution mandating a global arms and aviation fuel embargo, referring the situation in Myanmar to the International Criminal Court, and establishing an international mechanism to enforce the ICJ's orders on survivor-led reparations.

"*For years, the Security Council has stood paralyzed while the Myanmar military slaughtered Rohingya and burned and bombed communities across the country*," said Kyaw Win. "*With the World Court's verdict in hand, member states have no more excuses. The U.K. must rally the Council to enforce the law and protect civilians now*."

Organisation's Background

BHRN is based in London, operates across Burma and works for human rights, minority rights and religious freedom in Burma. BHRN has played a crucial role in advocating for human rights and religious freedom with politicians and world leaders.

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