

# Kannon Day 2019: Action for Rohingya crisis in Myanmar/Bangladesh

In August 2017 thousands and thousands of Rohingya people fled their native Rakhine state in Myanmar as a violent crackdown on the ethnic group surged through the area. Today, two years later, these [stateless people remain in huge refugee camps in Bangladesh, trapped between the misery of refugee life and the continuing unsafety of home.](#)

In Myanmar itself, there has been a worrying erosion of the free press, where journalists and other media workers face ongoing restrictions in connection to their work. The operations of independent media outlets have been increasingly undermined, and those who report on sensitive subjects - in particular the situation and treatment of the Rohingya minority - can face intimidation and harassment and at times arrest, detention, prosecution and even imprisonment.

Last year we wrote letters calling for the release of Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, two award-winning Reuters journalists who were arrested and imprisoned while investigating a [massacre of ten Rohingya men at Inn Din](#). The good news is that [Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo have been unconditionally released](#) following a presidential pardon on 7 May 2019. Their case was one of the most high-profile cases around the world and a rallying cry for press freedom and freedom of expression. Reuters and numerous organisations ran campaigns for their release, including the Amnesty International letter writing campaign that we took part in. Upon release, Wa Lone told journalists outside of Insein Prison: ***“I want to thank everyone who helped us in prison, and everyone around the world who called for our release. I can’t wait to get back to the news room now.”***



Reuters reporters Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo celebrate with their children after being freed from prison, after receiving a presidential pardon in Yangon, Myanmar, May 7, 2019.  
REUTERS/Ann Wang/Pool

# URGENT ACTION

## FILMMAKER CHARGED, HEALTH CONCERNS REMAIN

Min Htin Ko Ko Gyi, a prominent filmmaker, has been formally charged after being detained for more than three months in connection with a series of Facebook posts criticizing the Myanmar's military's role in politics. His bail requests have been denied despite concerns for his health. If found guilty and convicted, he faces two years in prison. A second complaint against him – which carries a maximum of two years in prison – remains pending. He is a prisoner of conscience who should be immediately and unconditionally released.

This year, Amnesty International is calling for letters in support for Min Htin Ko Ko Gyi, a film maker detained in Myanmar (see more details on separate sheet).

Amnesty International is also calling for those responsible for crimes against the Rohingya to be held accountable. Amnesty International has gathered extensive evidence implicating Myanmar's military Commander-in-Chief, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, and 12 other named individuals in crimes against humanity committed against the Rohingya population in northern Rakhine State.

The 186-page report, [\*'We Will Destroy Everything': Military Responsibility for Crimes against Humanity in Rakhine State\*](#) calls for the situation in Myanmar to be referred to the International Criminal Court for investigation and prosecution. The 13 individuals their biographies and details of crimes are found on page 178.

The report is the result of nine months of research and more than 400 interviews, and is Amnesty's most comprehensive account of the tragic events in Rakhine. The [US](#), [Canada](#) and [EU](#) have all taken action against some or all of those named in the report.

There is currently an [online Amnesty International campaign](#) calling for Steve Marshall, New Zealand Ambassador to Myanmar, to support sanctions against military leaders accused of war crimes against the Rohingya. So we can take up that action too.

### Myanmar: Demand justice for Rohingya now

You hear the sound of gunfire. Soldiers are storming your village. Houses go up in flames. It's time to flee...what would you take with you?

This was the reality for people seeking refuge who fled Myanmar in fear of their lives.

Hundreds of thousands of people are now in the largest refugee camp in the world – Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. The camp is spread across nearly 6,000 acres and is mainly forest land that was cleared for the exodus of refugees from Myanmar.

But this crisis has been forgotten. It's no longer on the front pages. No longer at the top of everyone's minds. And certainly not on top of the priority list for the international community. These families still desperately need you to help.

We must expose the truth about the continuing plight of the Rohingya community and get the world to stand up, listen and act.

Let the New Zealand Ambassador to Myanmar, Steve Marshall, know that you stand with the Rohingya people and call on him to support immediate sanctions against the thirteen Myanmar military officials implicated in crimes against humanity.

**TAKE ACTION**



226 actions taken so far, help us reach 500 today

Go to: <https://www.amnesty.org.nz/myanmar-demand-justice-rohingya-now?take-action>