



ESTD. 2009

Leitungbup Zomi Innkuan Kipawlna

Zomi International Communities Organization



USA, Canada, UK, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Germany, India, Singapore, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Korea

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Executive Council

Press Statement

December 9, 2019

The ICJ Ruling on the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted the *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide* in 1948 to condemn, prevent and punish attempts to destroy/wipe out, *in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group*. Citing this Convention, Republic of the Gambia has filed a case against Myanmar with the International Court of Justice (ICJ), appealing for intervention and condemnation of the crimes committed against the Rohingya community in Myanmar.

Gambia has accused Myanmar guilty of crimes against humanity through the attempted genocide of the Rohingya people. The Military led Governments and apparatus of Dictators in Myanmar have for long committed crimes of persecution, murder, rape and violence against children, destruction of homes and villages, cultures and languages, way of life, exhibiting a gross negligence of the status and the rights of Ethnic Nationalities/ Indigenous Peoples to the point where the very existence of these groups is threatened. Further, the past and present Government of Myanmar has made it impossible for Ethnic Nationalities to seek justice inside Myanmar and the condemnation of the crimes committed against them, and that is not forthcoming in terms of any tangible outcome.

1. Therefore, the Zomi International Communities Organization, on behalf of the overseas Zomi communities across the globe, **welcomes** the Application Instituting Proceedings and Request for Provisional Measures by the Republic of the Gambia (The Gambia) against the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (Myanmar), and condemns such persecution of the Rohingya people claimed in the Application, as it is an experience shared by the Ethnic Nationalities/ Indigenous Peoples, including the people of Zomi, in Myanmar.

(Continued on Next Page)



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(Page #2)

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The ICJ Ruling on the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (Cont'd.)

2. The Zomi International Communities Organization would like to appeal to the ICJ to take into account the experiences of other Ethnic Nationalities/ Minorities of Myanmar and to address the systematic ethnic cleansing, human rights violations and atrocities committed against them, the attempts to wipe out their culture, language and identity, infringements on their Indigenous People Rights, that put their existence and survival at high-risk.
3. We appeal to the ICJ to condemn and expose the atrocities committed by the Government and Military Leaders of Myanmar against Ethnic Nationalities and order measures in a matter of urgency that the Government of Myanmar to ensure such crimes against humanity are no longer committed.
4. We also fervently appeal to the ICJ and the United Nations (UN) to impose resolutions that the Government of Myanmar to recognize, affirm and fully respect the rights of the Ethnic Nationalities/ Indigenous Peoples which originally formed the Union of Myanmar as envisaged by the Founding Members of the country with an active stakeholder role so that The Rights of Indigenous Peoples would be fully installed and protected.
5. In the case brought against Myanmar by Gambia, the Zomi as an Ethnic Nationalities, we give our full respect to Myanmar's State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on her leadership as the Minister of Foreign Affairs at the International Court of Justice (ICJ). We hope that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will strongly stand against Genocide, Ethnic Cleansing and Human Rights violations.
6. It is our earnest request to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, as Representative of Myanmar at ICJ, that she would rightfully, and with conviction, stand up against the atrocities committed on the Ethnic Nationalities/ Indigenous Peoples by the military government and its apparatus. We sincerely appeal that she stands to represent not only the State, the interest of the people of Myanmar, including the voice of the Ethnic Nationalities/ Indigenous Peoples before the ICJ to enable the court to make a fair and just judgement for the people of Myanmar, especially for Ethnic Nationalities/ Indigenous Peoples in the case at hand.



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(Page #3)

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The ICJ Ruling on the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (Cont'd.)

7. The Zomi International Communities Organization appeals to State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy (NLD)-led Government to protect the Ethnic Nationalities/ Indigenous Peoples of Myanmar from the threat of systematic ethnic cleansing, tortures, village burning, killing and military operations, abuse and harassment, religious persecution, elimination and disintegration of culture, literature and language, and the denial of identity, value and self-determination.

May justice and peace prevail in Myanmar

Executive Council Zomi International Communities

Statement Distribution:

1. President, United Nations General Assembly
2. President, International Court of Justice
3. Secretary General, United Nations
4. President, Republic of the Gambia
5. President, Republic of the Union of Myanmar
6. State Counsellor, Republic of the Union of Myanmar
7. Zomi Community Organizations Worldwide
8. International Media: VOA, BBC, RFA
9. Myanmar Media