

February 1, 2021

The Honourable Marc Garneau, PC, MP
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6



Sent via email

Dear Minister:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE) and its more than 390,000 members across Canada. I was deeply concerned to hear the news today of the military seizing power in Myanmar.

NUPGE, with the leadership of the Advisory Committee on Women's Issues (ACWI), has been actively monitoring and speaking out about the genocide against the Rohingya. I have previously written Prime Minister Trudeau, urging your government to take stronger measures to protect the Rohingya from further prosecution and violence.

NUPGE welcomed the move by Canada and the Netherlands to intervene in the Rohingya genocide case before the International Court of Justice. We all have a responsibility to speak out and to take action to stop the Rohingya genocide.

Canada has previously recognized the role of Aung San Suu Kyi in the Rohingya genocide. Also, Myanmar's military has played a major role in the systematic violence, murder, and displacement of the Rohingya. And so, the potential impacts on the Rohingya of today's military takeover, and the unrest that may follow, are of serious concern to us, and should be a priority of the Canadian government in its response.

I implore the Canadian government to continue monitoring the situation in Myanmar, specifically as it affects the Rohingya. I also reiterate NUPGE's previous calls on the Canadian government to support the Rohingya's ongoing needs and movements on the ground, and to support Rohingya-led grassroots struggles for peace.



NUPGE has been supporting the work of the Rohingya Women Welfare Society under the leadership of Razia Sultana. Razia Sultana is a lawyer, human rights advocate, researcher, and educator working to end the sexual violence, trauma, state violence, and trafficking of Rohingya women and girls. I urge your government to take action to ensure the continued safe operation of the Rohingya Women Welfare Society and the safety of the people involved.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LB' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Larry Brown
President

cc: François Lafrenière, Ambassador of Canada to Myanmar
His Excellency Hau Khan Sum, Ambassador-designate of Myanmar to Canada
Hassan Yussuff, President, Canadian Labour Congress
Bert Blundon, Secretary-Treasurer, NUPGE
National Executive Board
Advisory Committee on Women's Issues