

Arakan Rohingya National Organisation (ARNO)



Press Release: 26 June 2020

Thanks to the Indonesians for help to distress Rohingyas at sea

Arakan Rohingya National Organisation (ARNO) expresses its sincere gratitude to the people and government of Indonesia for their generous efforts to rescue about 100 Rohingya refugees, who were stranded and in distress at sea in Aceh, and for kindly providing them with temporary shelter and assistance on humanitarian ground. It has been counted upon as a real demonstration of brotherhood, leadership and notable humanitarian gesture.

ARNO requests that the Indonesian government continue extending temporary assistance until appropriate resources are available for the refugees to obtain safe shelter and food resources.

In order for the Rohingya to return home in a safe and dignified manner, ARNO calls upon leaders within the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to address the root causes of the Rohingya crisis and their refugee problem; to pressure the Myanmar government to end the genocide and apartheid in Myanmar that is causing conditions to create opportunities for illicit trafficking networks to flourish in the region affecting the ASEAN and other countries; and to support the Rohingya people's rights to be legally recognized as an ethnic minority in Myanmar as well as restoration of full citizenship consistent with other ethnic nationalities of Myanmar.

The region must unite in creating a long-term solution focusing concrete efforts on providing mutual cooperation and technical assistance to all countries in the region to put an end to the human trafficking and human smuggling that continues to occur. The region's efforts continue to be lacklustre in this regard and pushing the Rohingya back out to sea or preventing the ships from docking will not stop or prevent trafficking on the high seas.

ARNO requests the United States and the European Union assist ASEAN to ensure that international agreements stopping and preventing human trafficking are enforced in Myanmar.

We ask all countries to provide assistance for legitimate law enforcement programs, which include prosecution of perpetrators, so that human trafficking, a crime against humanity is stopped in the region.

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