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## **The U.S. Campaign for Burma Welcomes the Biden Administration's Genocide Determination of the Rohingya**

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(Washington, DC, March 21, 2022) – This morning, U.S. State Secretary Antony Blinken announced the Biden administration's decision to formally determine that the violence committed against the Rohingya in 2017 amounts to genocide and crimes against humanity. The U.S. Campaign for Burma welcomes and supports this long-awaited decision but remains cautiously optimistic. The acknowledgement of the atrocities committed by the Burmese military is imperative, especially now as the Burmese junta continues to commit genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and human rights violations against people throughout the country. Indeed, the apparent complacency of the international community has served as an encouragement for impunity.

This determination is one of the keys to hold the Burmese military junta accountable for the genocide against the Rohingya and related war crimes against all other ethnic and religious minorities across Burma. Therefore, the Biden administration must continue to implement strong action against the military regime. There is great urgency for tangible action to make a meaningful impact against the Burmese junta and its leaders. Immediate and tangible actions will communicate to the military that they will be held accountable for past, as well as current, campaigns of abuse. Over decades, the military has become inured to condemnation and announcements of outrage, almost to the point of deriving confidence from them. While the Burmese military has not invaded a sovereign country, it has attacked the sovereign power of the people. For over a year, the Burmese people still yearn for their inclusion in global action to support them. As the US Campaign for Burma witnesses the power of grassroots action and support for Burma from individuals around the world, one can see that it is possible for immediate action and solidarity with the brave people of Burma.

"While this determination is long-awaited, as a Rohingya, this decision is historical, important and humanizing for us. We must also acknowledge that it is only the first step of many, and we must ensure that the Biden administration takes the necessary and appropriate tangible course of actions to hold the Burmese military accountable for their atrocity crimes not only for genocide of Rohingya, but for war crimes, and crimes against humanity against our ethnic brothers and sisters as well. We are hopeful, as a community, that this genocide determination will be the door to many more important and monumental changes toward peace, security, and accountability for us all." - Yasmin Ullah, U.S. Campaign for Burma board member

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