



## Press Release

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### **Ahmadi Muslims Unite Hundreds of U.S. Lawmakers in a Call to Action to Address Rohingya Crisis in Burma**

***107 volunteers from over 30 states host Rohingya Muslim leadership at  
Congressional Caucus reception***

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA received bipartisan support for its eighth annual “Day on the Hill.” The three-day event drew Community leaders from 74 chapters and over 30 states. Volunteer delegates, who were joined by Rohingya Muslim leadership, briefed over 200 U.S. Congressional offices on the Rohingya crisis in Burma.

U.S. Representatives Jackie Speier (D-CA) and Peter King (R-NY), co-chairs of the bipartisan 32-member Ahmadiyya Muslim Congressional Caucus, also headlined a special reception attended by U.S. lawmakers, the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, members of the U.S. diplomatic corps (including the former U.S. Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom), faith leaders, policy expert and religious freedom advocates. Speakers emphasized the urgent need to intervene to stop the ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya Muslim minority:

Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA), co-sponsor of H.R. 4223 (Burma Act) and a founding member of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Congressional Caucus said: *“The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is the conscience for religious freedom in America. His Holiness [the World Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community] has spoken in a clear and direct manner on the Rohingya crisis in Burma, and we should all take a page from his book.”*

*“Through the Ahmadiyya Muslim Caucus, you have brought peace between Democrats and Republicans,”* said Rep. Peter King (R-NY), *“The human rights abuses of the Rohingya is morally wrong, is ethnic cleansing, and I stand with Ahmadi Muslims to stop it.”*

*“His Holiness [the World Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community] has said to Prime Minister of Canada, ‘All people should be granted true religious freedom and all people should have the right to peacefully practice their faiths and beliefs.’ That is true for Burma and everywhere,”* said Rep. Raj Krishnamoorthi (D-IL).

*“Religious freedom is the most important human right,”* said Kristina Arriaga de Bucholz, Vice Chair of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, *“We applaud your Community for condemning the persecution of Rohingya Muslims. The situation in Burma is dire and largely ignored. When a group is suffering, all human beings are lessened unless we speak.”*

*“The situation for Rohingya is beyond description because this is my home,”* said Reza Uddin, Council Member of the Arakan Rohingya Union, *“Over 13,000 have been killed, 330 villages have been burned and close to 1 million have crossed to Bangladesh. Most are women and children. Many have been killed or thrown into fire by Buddhist vigilantes. We have the moral duty to speak for this community, and yet the civilian leader Suu Kyi is denying there’s ethnic cleansing, and we had hoped she would do more.”*

*“As a community that is persecuted ourselves, we are deeply grief-stricken at the ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar,”* said Amjad Mahmood Khan, National Director of Public Affairs for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA, *“We join the Ahmadiyya Muslim Caucus on Capitol Hill to ensure that Rohingya Muslims attain their basic human rights and freedoms.”*

**About Ahmadiyya Muslim Community:**

*Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is a dynamic, reformist and fast-growing international movement within Islam. Founded in 1889, the Community spans more than 200 countries with membership exceeding 160 million. Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA, established in 1920, is among the first American-Muslim organizations.*

*Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is the only Islamic organization to believe that the long-awaited messiah has come in the person of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908) of Qadian, India. Ahmad claimed to be the metaphorical second coming of Jesus of Nazareth and the divine guide, whose advent was foretold by the Prophet of Islam, Muhammad. The Community believes that God sent Ahmad, like Jesus, to end religious wars, condemn bloodshed and reinstitute morality, justice and peace. Ahmad’s advent has brought about an unprecedented era of Islamic revival and moderation. He divested Muslims of fanatical beliefs and practices by vigorously championing Islam’s true and essential teachings.*

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