87R21037 BPG-D

By:  Reynolds H.R. No. 1329

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Myanmar state forces killed almost 24,000 members of the country's Rohingya Muslim minority between 2017 and 2020, according to a report compiled by the Ontario International Development Agency; and

WHEREAS, Rohingya Muslims have lived in Myanmar for centuries, alongside a Buddhist majority and other, smaller ethnic minorities, but following a military coup in 1962, the Rohingya were demonized by a regime seeking scapegoats for its failures; enacting a series of harsh laws, the military stripped them of citizenship and practiced systematic oppression, claiming they were illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, intent upon destroying Buddhist heritage; and

WHEREAS, Isolated politically and economically, military leaders began to adopt some trappings of representative government; a new constitution was adopted in 2008, but the persecution of the Rohingya escalated, and authorities launched an ethnic cleansing campaign, interning them in squalid open-air detention camps; and

WHEREAS, In a 2015 election, the party led by Nobel Prize-winning champion of democracy Aung San Suu Kyi won a landslide victory; she became the de facto civilian leader, but deferred to the military as the state continued to persecute the Rohingya; after an attack by a rebel group in 2017, the military descended upon Rohingya villages with helicopter gunships; soldiers burned houses to the ground and committed murder and gang rapes in a brutal campaign with "genocidal intent," according to a United Nations human rights report; more than 750,000 desperate Rohingya, mostly women and children, were driven over the border into Bangladesh, according to Amnesty International; and

WHEREAS, Before being ousted by a military coup in February 2021, Aung San Suu Kyi ignored pleas from the international community to speak out or intervene, dismissing evidence of atrocities as "fake news" and claiming the military was simply fighting terrorism; and

WHEREAS, The Rohingya have suffered immensely for decades, and while hundreds of thousands languish in crowded refugee camps in Bangladesh, the fate of those remaining in Myanmar is more precarious than ever under an emboldened military determined to crush all opposition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby condemn the genocide perpetrated against the Rohingya people by the military government of Myanmar.