

## **WORLD BUDDHIST LEADERS RESPONSE TO THE GROWING ETHNIC VIOLENCE AGAINST MUSLIMS IN MYANMAR**

To Our Brother and Sister Buddhists in Myanmar,

As world Buddhist leaders we send our lovingkindness and concern for the difficulties the people of Myanmar are faced with at this time. While it is a time of great positive change we are concerned about the growing ethnic violence and the targeting of Muslims in Rakhine State and across the country. The Burmese are a noble people, and Burmese Buddhists carry a long and profound history of upholding the Dharma.

We wish to reaffirm to the world and to support you in practicing the most fundamental Buddhist principles of non-harming, mutual respect and compassion.

These fundamental principles taught by the Buddha are at the core of Buddhist practice:

Buddhist teaching is based on the precepts of refraining from killing and causing harm.

Buddhist teaching is based on compassion and mutual care.

Buddhist teaching offers respect to all, regardless of class, caste, race or creed.

We are with you for courageously standing up for these Buddhist principles even when others would demonize or harm Muslims or other ethnic groups.

It is only through mutual respect, harmony and tolerance that Myanmar can become a modern great nation benefiting all her people and a shining example to the world.

Whether you are a Sayadaw or young monk or nun, or whether you are a lay Buddhist, please, speak out, stand up, reaffirm these Buddhist truths, and support all in Myanmar with the compassion, dignity and respect offered by the Buddha.

We stand with you in the Dharma,

Ven. Thich Nhat Hanh  
Nobel Peace Prize Nominee.  
Vietnam

Dr. A T Ariyaratne  
Founder Nationwide Sarvodaya Movement  
Ghandi Peace Prize Laureate  
Sri Lanka

Ven. Phra Paisal Visalo  
Chair Buddhika Network Buddhism and Society  
Thailand

Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi  
President Buddhist Global Relief  
(worlds foremost translator of the Pali Canon)  
Sri Lanka/USA

Ven. Chao Khun Raja Sumedhajahn  
Elder, Ajahn Chah Monasteries  
Wat Ratanavan, Thailand

Ven. Arjia Rinpoche VIII  
Abbot Tibetan Mongolian Cultural Center  
Mongolia/USA

Ven. Shodo Harada Roshi.  
Abbot Sogenji Rinzaï Zen Monastery  
Japan

Ven. Ajahn Amaro Mahathera  
Abbot Amaravati Vihara  
England

Younge Khachab Rinpoche VII.  
Abbot Younge Drodul Ling  
Canada

Dr. Jack Kornfield Vipassana Achariya  
Convener Western Buddhist Teachers Council  
USA

Ven. Zoketsu N. Fischer Soto Roshi  
Fmr. Abbot largest Zen community In the West  
USA/Japan

HH the XIV Dalai Lama  
Nobel Laureate Tibet/India

Though not able to be reached in time to sign this letter H H the Dalai Lama has publicly and repeatedly stated his concern about the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar. He urges everyone to continue to practice non-violence and retain the religious harmony that is central to our ancient and revered culture.

Achariya Professor J Simmer Brown  
Chairperson Buddhist Studies  
Naropa Buddhist University  
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Ven. Hozan A Senauke  
International Network of Engaged Buddhists  
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Ven. Sr. Thich Nu Chan Kong  
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