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**U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS COMMEND GAMBIA
LAWSUIT AGAINST MYANMAR IN INTERNATIONAL
COURT OF JUSTICE**

***Lawsuit represents long overdue legal step against Myanmar
for committing genocide against Rohingya Muslims***

Chicago – Justice For All, an interfaith human rights group, applauds the government of the Republic of The Gambia for filing a lawsuit at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) against the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for violating its obligations under the Genocide Convention. The ICJ is the principal judicial body of the United Nations and rules on disputes between states and other questions of international law. The lawsuit, filed yesterday, is aimed at holding the state of Myanmar accountable for the atrocities it has committed against Rohingya Muslims.

“Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said that ‘the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.’ This filing represents another incremental step toward justice for the Rohingya,” said Imam Abdul Malik Mujahid, Chair of Justice For All and Burma Task Force. “The Gambian leadership is to be congratulated. They deserve our praise and thanks for taking such a courageous stand for human rights and for the Rohingya people. Now they need our support, along with the support of all U.N.-member states who uphold human rights.”

Starting in October 2016 and then again in August 2017, more than 700,000 ethnic Rohingya civilians have been forcibly displaced from Myanmar, with nearly 400 Rohingya villages attacked and burned. This massive military offensive, supported by the government of Myanmar, was one of several waves of pogroms and military assaults. According to UN investigations, these military operations amount to genocide and crimes against humanity. Survivors reported indiscriminate killings, rape and sexual violence, arbitrary detention, and torture. Over 1 million Rohingya Muslims currently live in the world's largest refugee camp located outside Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

Through its Burma Task Force campaign, Justice For All was an early advocate for the claim that Myanmar's actions constituted a textbook case of genocide. In 2015 the organization issued a joint letter, signed by 7 Nobel laureates, claiming that the case

warranted the designation of “genocide,” motivating the growing international consensus that has emerged.

“The Gambia refused to stay silent in the face of genocide. The rest of the world must support them in condemning these acts by joining this lawsuit,” said Mujahid.

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About Justice For All: *An NGO with Consultative Status at the United Nations (DPI), Justice for All is an Illinois registered nonprofit organization with its main office based in Chicago, with staff and volunteers in Washington DC, New York, Boston, Texas and other locations. The organization, which was incorporated in 1999, grew out of advocacy efforts on the human rights abuses experienced in Bosnia and later Kosovo during the break-up of the former Yugoslavia. At that time, it was instrumental in shaping the discourse around the ‘genocide’ debate and campaigned to declare rape as a war crime in international law. Justice for All is funded by a broad range of faith community donors who take a keen interest in the furtherance of human rights both in the United States and outside its shores. Its broad mandate to educate fellow citizens on social justice concerns and provide guidance for action through regular newsletters and extensive media engagement.*