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Announcement No. (5/2022) March 22, 2022 Statement on the determination by the United States Government of genocide and crimes against humanity against the Rohingya

The National Unity Government (NUG) welcomes the determination by the United States Government that the Myanmar military's 2017 attacks against the Rohingya in Rakhine State amounted to genocide and crimes against humanity.

This finding follows calls, including by the Rohingya community and the United Nations (UN) Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar for the military leadership to be investigated and prosecuted for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes against the Rohingya.

The NUG acknowledges that discriminatory practices and rhetoric against the Rohingya also laid the ground for these atrocities. The impunity enjoyed by the military's leadership has since enabled their direction of countrywide crimes at the helm of an illegal military junta. Those crimes against the Myanmar people continue until today by the military.

The determination by the US is timely as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on Myanmar address the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. The UN HRC will next week adopt a new resolution on Myanmar.

The NUG stands by its 'Policy Position on the Rohingya in Rakhine State' issued in June 2021. The Policy commits to the safe, voluntary, dignified, and sustainable return of Rohingya refugees and internally displaced persons, and to comprehensive legislative and policy reform in support of citizenship, equality in rights and opportunity, and justice and reparations.

The NUG encourages the United States to support the United Nations Security Council to refer the situation in Myanmar to the International Criminal Court (ICC). In July 2021, the NUG lodged an Article 12(3) Declaration with the Registrar of the ICC on behalf of 1 Myanmar, accepting the Court's jurisdiction with respect to international crimes committed in the country since 1 July 2002.

Justice and accountability must follow this determination.

(Duwa Lashi La) Acting President National Unity Government The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

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