Sender: Name / Address

 **Place / Date:**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

Prime Minister's Office

Old Sangsad Bhaban Tejgaon

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**Security and freedom of movement for the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh**

Dear Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed,

I am addressing you today, because I am concerned about the fate of the Rohingya refugees from Myanmar.

First of all I like to say, that I appreciate the great hospitality of the Bangladeshi people. In August 2017, Myanmar's army began displacing the predominantly Muslim Rohingya minority. Bangladesh alone took in almost one million refugees as a result. Most of them live in Kutupalong camp in Cox's Bazar district. Later, another camp was set up on Bashan Char, a previously uninhabited island in the Bay of Bengal. Today, more than 30,000 Rohingya are already allegedly living there voluntarily.

The inhabitants of these camps are exposed to great danger in case of floods or fires because of the location of the camps or the high security fences. Unfortunately, access to education, the health system and drinking water is also restricted, as is freedom of movement and assembly. Schooling for children has resumed after the pandemic, but is limited in terms of time and content. In the Kutupalong camp, criminal gangs compete for supremacy. Attempts by your government and the international community to negotiate with the Myanmar military regime to secure the return of the Rohingya have so far failed.

It is a matter of great concern to me that

 1. the government in Bangladesh take measures to ensure that the refugees can lead a dignified life. This includes not only housing, food, medical care and security, but also schooling for the children and youth and permission for adults to contribute to their own livelihoods and leave the camps to do so. The authorities must ensure that the Rohingya community in Bangladesh is involved in all decisions affecting their lives and rights.

 2. journalists, representatives of the United Nations and civil society organisations, including donors, humanitarian and human rights organisations, be given unhindered access to the camps not only in Cox’s Bazar but also in Bhashan Char Island to independently assess the situation of the Rohingyas.

 3. The Bangladeshi government upholds the principle of non-refoulement. It ensures that the Rohingya refugees are not taken to a place where they could be subjected to serious human rights abuses.

I hope that you will understand my concerns and take appropriate action.

Yours sincerely