

Global Minorities Alliance condemns violence against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar

Glasgow, UK , 22.05.2013: Sheraz Khan, Chief Executive of Global Minorities Alliance (GMA) has vehemently condemned growing persecution of Rohingya Muslims and urged President of Myanmar to promote a culture of peace and interfaith harmony.

“We are deeply concerned over the mistreatment of Rohingya Muslims in the western state of Rakhine and urge peaceful co-existence between various communities of Myanmar.” said Mr Khan.

Expressing his profound concern over the communal violence being directed at Muslim communities inside Myanmar he stressed the need for repairing fractured communal relations.

He urged world leaders to use their influence over Thein Sein, the president of Myanmar to stop displacement of people and bringing apartheid-like policies segregating minority Muslims to an end.

Mr Khan was critical of 1982 Citizenship law of Myanmar which effectively denies Burmese citizenship to Rohingya on discriminatory ethnic grounds.

Elaborating on the controversial law he said, Rohingya minority is not considered as one of the eight recognized “national races” which are entitled to citizenship.

He urged the President of Myanmar to introduce reforms to allow citizenship to persecuted Rohingya minority.

Condemning ethno-religious clashes in Burma he said a revenge attacks and religious riots escalated since last May.



‘Central Mosque’ in Sittwe, Myanmar, under attack

GMA chief criticised extremist Buddhists for their intolerant attitude towards religious minorities in Burma, particularly Rohingya Muslims.

In the first week of May 2013 Buddhist mobs attacked mosques and burned more than 70 homes in Oakkan, north of Rangoon, after a Muslim girl on a bicycle collided with a monk, he said adding the violent clashes claimed killed one and left nine people injured.

Pointing to the dichotomy between Buddhist monks’ vow of “not to kill” and the situation on the ground in Burma he called upon Buddhist monks in Myanmar to shun violence and live in peace and harmony.

“What is point of killing people when issues can be amicably addressed through dialogue.” he said.

The writer Shahid Khan is the Vice Chairperson of Global Minorities Alliance. He can be reached via info@globalminorities.co.uk