

development cooperation to advance the rights and empowerment of women and girls, particularly for Rohingya refugees.

On October 23, the Prime Minister was pleased to appoint the Honourable Bob Rae as Special Envoy to Myanmar. He is confident that Bob Rae's vast experience as a lawyer, advisor, negotiator, arbitrator and public servant will help Canada work more effectively with Myanmar and other international partners to chart a path towards lasting peace and reconciliation.

On November 10, in Da Nang Vietnam, the Prime Minister had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Rae, who had already travelled to Indonesia, Bangladesh and Myanmar to engage with government officials, civil society, humanitarian organizations, Rohingya refugees and inhabitants of Rakhine State.

Subsequently, they met State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi where the Prime Minister reiterated his deep concern for the situation and Canada's interest to promote support a peaceful way forward that sees the return of Rohingya refugees to Myanmar and the full restoration and protection of their rights.

In 2017, the Government of Canada committed more than \$37.5 million to support the hundreds of thousands of people in Bangladesh and Myanmar affected by the violence in Myanmar. This includes \$12.5 million for the Myanmar Crisis Relief Fund that matches the generous contributions made by Canadians to registered charities between August 25 and November 28, 2017 to respond to this crisis.

Our Government will continue to stand firm against the oppression of Myanmar's Rohingya Muslim people and other ethnic minorities and is seeking a resolution to this humanitarian crisis. We will continue to closely monitor the situation as Mr. Rae continues his important work in the coming months.

Sincerely,



M. Browne  
Special Assistant – Prime Minister's Correspondence