# WHY COULD MYANMAR FACE JUDGMENT OVER ITS TREATMENT OF THE ROHINGYA?




## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

The International Court of Justice in The Hague is preparing to rule on whether Myanmar committed genocide against the Rohingya, a Muslim minority living mainly in western Myanmar. In 2017, a military campaign forced hundreds of thousands of Rohingya to flee into neighbouring Bangladesh. Many survivors described soldiers burning villages, killing civilians and carrying out sexual violence. The case was brought by The Gambia under the 1948 United Nations Genocide Convention, a law created after the Holocaust. Judges must decide whether Myanmar's actions were intended to destroy the Rohingya as a national, ethnic, racial or religious group. Myanmar denies committing genocide and says its military was fighting armed rebels. The court's decision is expected on Thursday. It could bring international pressure on Myanmar, although the court has limited power to enforce its judgments.

## WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

The case shows how the world has tried to create laws against mass killing since the Second World War. It also shows how difficult it can be to prove what a government intended. For the Rohingya, the decision is about more than a legal argument. It could affect their hopes of returning home safely and receiving justice.

## THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN

**"Why was the Genocide Convention created after the Second World War?"**

**Source:** The Guardian

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/nov/15/myanmar-rohingya-genocide-icj