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Rt Hon Baroness Anelay of St Johns DBE  
Prime Minister’s Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict  
King Charles Street   
London, SW1A 2AH   
  
Dear Baroness Anelay  
  
I am writing to you to ask you to support a UN Commission of Inquiry into rape and sexual violence by the Burmese army.  
  
The Burmese army uses rape and sexual violence against ethnic minority women with impunity. It has long been a tactic of war in its attacks on Burma’s different ethnic groups. UN reports have described rape and sexual violence as widespread and systematic, and as a prevalent pattern of human rights violations in the country. The fact that rape and sexual violence by the Burmese army happens all over Burma, many rapes are gang-rapes and includes higher officers, as well as the numbers documented is believed to be only the tip of the iceberg, all points to this being a widespread and systematic practice within the Burmese army, condoned at the highest level.  
  
The practice continues to this day and there is no justice for the victims of these crimes. The response by the Burmese government to the rape and murder of two Kachin teachers in early 2015 was denial, to threaten local organisations and individuals who accused the Burmese army of being involved, to try to shift blame to local people, and to intimidate witnesses. The results of forensic tests and the investigation have not been released, and no one has yet been charged or put on trial for the crime.  
  
It is clear that the Burmese army will never investigate itself. That is why an international investigation is needed.   
  
The British government has taken a world leading position in working against rape and sexual violence in conflict. This is an admirable position. Yet, when it comes to Burma the British government seems to be reluctant to do anything that addresses the Burmese army’s – and hence the Burmese government’s - involvement in these crimes. The British government should support the establishment of an international investigation into rape and sexual violence by the Burmese army, and take the lead internationally to gather support from other states for an investigation.   
  
The British government should also make sure that British aid is spent on women’s groups that document the rape and sexual violence by the Burmese army, and who works with the victims. It is also of outmost importance that the British government stop all training of the Burmese army until they have stopped using rape and sexual violence against ethnic women.  
  
Yours sincerely

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Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP  
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs  
King Charles Street   
London, SW1A 2AH  
  
Dear Foreign Secretary  
  
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Rory Stewart MP OBE  
Minister of State for International Development  
22 Whitehall   
London, SW1A 2EG  
  
Dear Rory Stewart MP  
  
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\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ MP

House of Commons  
London, SW1A 0AA  
  
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