

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

**CASE CONCERNING
APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTION ON
THE PREVENTION AND PUNISHMENT OF
THE CRIME OF GENOCIDE**

THE GAMBIA

v.

MYANMAR

**COUNTER-MEMORIAL OF
THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR**

VOLUME IX

Annexes 416 - 469

24 AUGUST 2023

VOLUME IX

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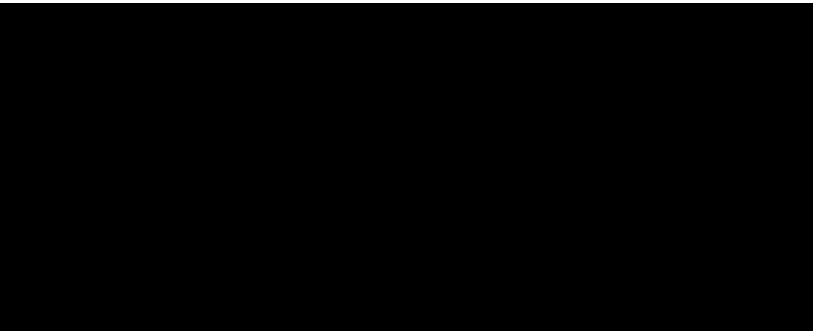
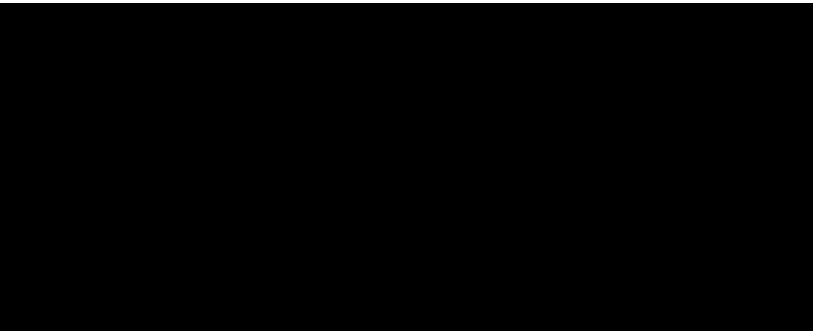
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သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

တီတော်မြတ်
 င်းလှည့်မင်္ဂလာ
 နေ့ ၄ နာရီမှ
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 ညီလမ်းဟော
 ဝိုင်လမ်းမှ ဦး
 ဘင်တိုက်လမ်းအ
 ထိလည်းက
 ဝေးလည်းက
 လမ်းပိတ်/
 ဖုန်းဆော

ရန်ကင်းစောသကြီး ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

လျှပ်စစ်မီးကို ချွေတာသုံးစွဲပါ

နိုင်ငံခေတ်မီဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးအတွက် အဓိကအဖော်ပွန်ဖြစ်သော လျှပ်စစ်မီးကို



- ဝန်နှင့်အားပျော့အောင် သုံးစွဲပါ။
- လေလွင့်ပျောက်သုံးမှု မရှိအောင် ဂရုစိုက်ပါ။
- အန္တရာယ်မဖြစ်အောင် သတိပြုပါ။
- နေ့စဉ်အကျိုးရှိစွာ ချွေတာသုံးစွဲပါ။

သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

ဝါရီ ၄ ရက်
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ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

သာစည်မြို့၌ အခြေခံမြန်မာ့သိုင်းသင်တန်းဆင်းပွဲကျင်းပ

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UEHRD တွင် လုပ်ငန်းအဖွဲ့ကိုဖွဲ့စည်းဆောင်ရွက်
 ဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်ရေးကိစ္စများ ကြိုးပမ်းဆောင်ရွက်နေမှုများနှင့်
 UNICEF အနေဖြင့် ပူးပေါင်းဆောင်ရွက်နိုင်မည့်နည်းလမ်းများအား ဆွေးနွေး

**မောင်တောမြို့နယ်၊ အင်းခင်ကျေးရွာသုသာန်၌
 အမည်မသိရုပ်အလောင်း ၁၀ လောင်းရရှိခဲ့ပြီး
 စုံစမ်းစစ်ဆေးမှုများပြုလုပ်**

UNICEF
 Ms June
 UNICEF အ
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 ဝိုင်ကြသ
 ဆက်လ
 ဝိုင်ခင်
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 June Kunugi
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 စံကြော
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Annex 416

Unofficial Translation

Tatmadaw and Local News

10 unidentified dead bodies found in Inn Din Village Cemetery, Maungdaw Township and launch investigations

Nay Pyi Taw, December 19

An anonymous person reported that people had been killed and buried in the cemetery of Inn Din village, Maungdaw Township, Rakhine state. According to the report, a preliminary investigation was launched on December 18 and it had been issued a press release that unidentified dead bodies were found.

Today, a team including the Township Judge U Zaw Zaw Than, Police Lieutenant Aye Min Tun from Inn Din police station, Township Medical Officer (TMO) Dr. Kyaw Maung Maung Thein, Assistant TMO Dr. Myat Tun Khaing under the leadership of Maungdaw District General Administrator, U Ye Htut, examined and found 10 unidentified dead bodies. According to the report, the team is continuing to investigate and identify the bodies and reveal the truth of the incident.

Source: Myawady Newspaper, December 20, 2017, p. 14

Annex 417

Tatmadaw True News Information Team, “Tatmadaw investigation team issues statement on findings of discovery of unidentified bodies in Inndin Village cemetery in Maungdaw Township”, *Myawady in English*, 11 January 2018

Tatmadaw investigation team issues statement on findings of discovery of unidentified bodies in Inndin Village cemetery in Maungtaw Township

Nay Pyi Taw January 10

A press release has already been issued saying that acting on the information sent by an unidentified person that slain human bodies were buried in Inndin Village cemetery in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State, a five-member investigation team led by Lt-Gen Aye Win from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) set off for the scene on 20 December 2017 to investigate whether or not security forces were involved in the case.

The team questioned witnesses—21 Tatmadawmen, three members of the border guard force, 13 members of No (8) Security Police Branch, six Inndin villagers and six civil servants—from 20 December 2017 to 2 January 2018.

According to the interrogations, Inndin Village tract is made up of two ethnic villages namely Inndin (Rakhine) and Peyon (Nata-La) and three Bengali villages. The two ethnic villages have 176 houses and 840 people. The three Bengali villages have 800 houses and about 6,000 people. After the 9 October attacks in 2016, the Bengalis came to have tense relations and threaten the ethnic villagers. On 25 August 2017, Inndin villager U Maung Ni was captured and killed by some Bengali terrorists while he was going to farm. U Maung Ni's family members had abhorred the Bengalis. Beginning 25 August, the Bengalis from Inndin Bengali Village had threatened Inndin ethnic Village from a distance day and night holding sticks and swords. Playing loud speakers, those Bengalis severely chanted slogans in Bengali language

"We are tigers. We will eat the ethnics and Tatmadawmen. We will slit their throats and hold an Eid. We will have to own this soil and this land. We will occupy this region." The ethnic villagers panicked and went to the Buddhist monastery of Inndin Village. At their request, security forces had to rush there in time for their security.

The security forces shouldering security duties in Inndin Village went to the seafont for security operation on 1 September. Meanwhile, they were attacked by about 200 Bengalis with sticks and swords. As the security forces opened fire into the sky, the Bengalis dispersed and ran away. Ten of them were arrested.

The security forces questioned the 10 arrestees at the village school on 1 September night. According to the accounts, they had connections with terrorists. They were said to be persuaded by Mawlawis to get involved in terrorist acts.

Although it needed to hand over 10 Bengali terrorists to the police station under the procedures, it was found that decision was made to kill them at the cemetery. It was because that as Bengali terrorists committed mine attacks and set fire to two vehicles of Inndin region police station at Thinbawgwe Village at a time when terror attacks happened one after another around the region while members of security forces were assigned in groups to carry out peace and stability of the region, so it was no situation to send 10 Bengali terrorists to the police station.

Those 10 Bengali terrorists retained at the school were taken to Peyon cemetery



A member of security force is under interrogation.

of Inndin Village at 8 am on 2 September. For the time being, Inndin villagers guided the route to the cemetery under escort of security forces, followed by 10 villagers including sons of U Maung Ni who was killed by Bengali terrorists, holding swords and hoes.

At Peyon cemetery, some villagers dug the pit in the ravine between two hillocks. Then, 10 Bengali terrorists were ordered to descend into the pit and two sons of U Maung Ni and one villager cut the Bengali terrorists with the use of swords. As some attacks coursed among them, four members of security forces near the pit shot them with the use of guns.

It was found that local ethnics had grievance against those 10 Bengali terrorists involved in the terror attacks, against Bengali villagers

who arrested and killed U Maung Ni without reason and they threatened and bullied the local ethnics. So the ethnics killed 10 arrested Bengali terrorists as they were keen to kill the arrestees with taking revenge.

In the incident, some villagers from Inndin Village and members of security forces confessed it is true they killed 10 Bengali terrorists. As such, action will be taken against the villagers who participated in the case and the members of security forces who broke the Rules of Engagement under the law. It was found that the incident was not submitted to superior levels. So, the officials who needed to control subordinates despite no direct relation to the incident will be necessarily exposed and taken action, and information on completion of action will be released.

Tatmadaw True News Information Team

IS cells operate in Kabul under noses of Afghan and US forces

Kabul January 10

Middle-class Afghans turned jihadists have assisted the Islamic State group's expansion from its stronghold in Afghanistan's restive east to Kabul, analysts say, helping to make the capital one of the deadliest places in the country.

IS has claimed nearly 20 attacks across Kabul in 18 months, with cells including students, professors and shopkeepers evading Afghan and US security forces to bring carnage to the highly fortified city.

It is an alarming development for Kabul's war-weary civilians and beleaguered security forces, who are already struggling to beat back the resurgent Taliban, as well as for the US counter-terrorism

mission in Afghanistan.

"This is not just a group that has a rural bastion in eastern Afghanistan -- it is staging high-casualty, high-visibility attacks in the nation's capital and I think that's something to be worried about," said analyst Michael Kugelmann of the Wilson Center in Washington.

The Islamic State-Khorasan Province (IS-K), the Middle East group's affiliate in Afghanistan and Pakistan, emerged in the region in 2014, largely made up of disaffected fighters from the Taliban and other jihadist groups in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia.

It claimed its first attack in Kabul in the summer of 2016. Since then the Sunni group has struck at security forces and Shiites with increasing

frequency, helped by its growing network in the capital.

There is no shortage of recruits, analysts say. IS has successfully tapped a rich vein of extremism in Afghanistan that has existed for decades and crosses socioeconomic groups -- fanned by growing internet access among urban youth.

"We're talking about a generation which has been desensitized to different types of violence and violent extremism," said Borhan Osman, a senior analyst with the International Crisis Group.

"It should not come as a surprise that some of the youth inculcated in the ideology of jihadism embrace the next version of jihadism, the most violent one."

AFP

One dead, 800 injured in Philippine Catholic parade

Manila January 10

One devotee died and more than 800 people were injured in the Philippine capital when millions joined a religious procession featuring a blackened image of Jesus, officials said on Wednesday.

The annual feast of the Black Nazarene, one of the world's largest Catholic festivals, drew 3.5 million barefoot devotees on Tuesday in what police described as a "generally peaceful" event despite crowds jostling to touch the icon.

However a former jail officer died of a heart attack after joining the scramble to climb onto the carriage bearing an image of the centuries-old Black Nazarene on Tuesday morning, city officials

and police said.

People in the mainly Catholic Asian nation risk life and limb to kiss or touch the icon with towels, believing the Black Nazarene to possess miraculous powers.

Two people died during the 2016 event. More than 800 people were hurt in this year's procession, including one who sustained a suspected neck and spine injury in a fall, according to the Philippine Red Cross. The procession began before dawn on Tuesday and ended after midnight, some 22 hours later.

During the parade police shut down mobile phone signals in many areas of Manila to prevent potential terror attacks on the procession.

AFP

Annex 418

Min Aung Khine, “Rakhine Immigration Chief Discusses Rohingya Repatriation, Citizenship”, *The Irrawaddy*, 11 January 2018

Available at:

<https://www.irrawaddy.com/in-person/rakhine-immigration-chief-discusses-rohingya-repatriation-citizenship.html>

In Person

Rakhine Immigration Chief Discusses Rohingya Repatriation, Citizenship



U Aung Min, the head of Rakhine State's Immigration and Population Department. / Min Aung Khine / The Irrawaddy

By **MIN AUNG KHINE** 11 January 2018

The government of Myanmar has said that it would in January begin repatriating the Muslims who fled Rakhine State for Bangladesh following the latest outbreak of violence in late August. However, there is growing criticism that the repatriation process lacks transparency and that the government has not consulted with the local Arakanese community about the plans. Irrawaddy reporter Min Aung Khine recently spoke to U Aung Min, the head of Rakhine State's Immigration and Population Department, about the repatriation process.

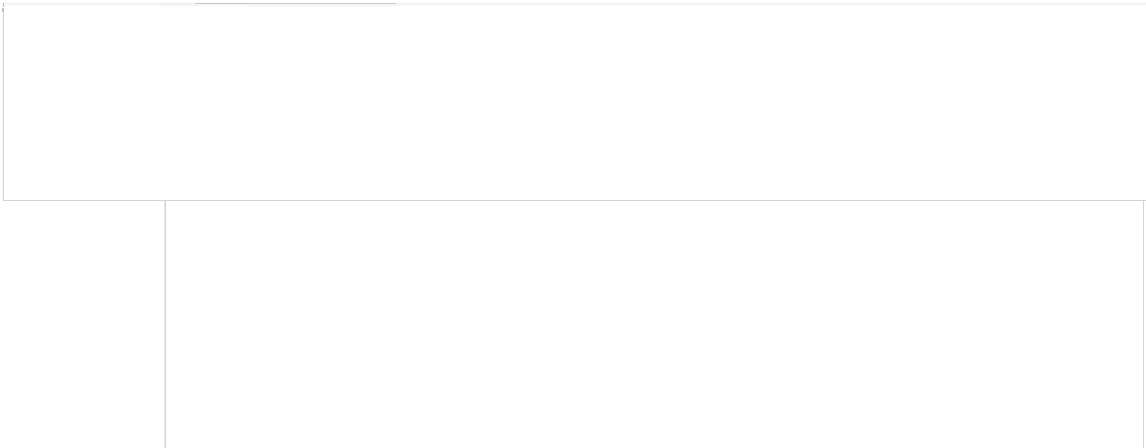
Would you explain the repatriation process for Muslim refugees in Bangladesh?



Annex 418

5/3/23, 8:43 PM

Rakhine Immigration Chief Discusses Rohingya Repatriation, Citizenship



We will accept them back at two centers in Taungpyoletwe and Nga Khu Ya. The Immigration and Population Department, General Administration Department, police and Health Department will be involved in the process. As the government has said, the process will be in line with the 1993 agreement. Repatriation forms will be sent to Bangladesh through the Foreign Ministry. Then the refugees wishing to come back will fill in the forms. Then those forms will be sent back to us through the Foreign Ministry.

Then we'll scrutinize whether or not they have really lived in our country. Then we will reply that we will accept this and that person. For example, suppose we receive a list of 10,000 people and we can confirm that 9,800 have lived in our country. Then we will send that list back to Bangladesh. Then we will accept the refugees according to that list. First we will issue them national verification cards (NVCs), and then electronically register their IDs.

When will the repatriation process start?

We've already prepared forms, NVCs and machines for electronic registration. We can start at once when the upper level authorities tell us to start.

How many people do you plan to accept per day? How long do you think the process will take?



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Rakhine Immigration Chief Discusses Rohingya Repatriation, Citizenship

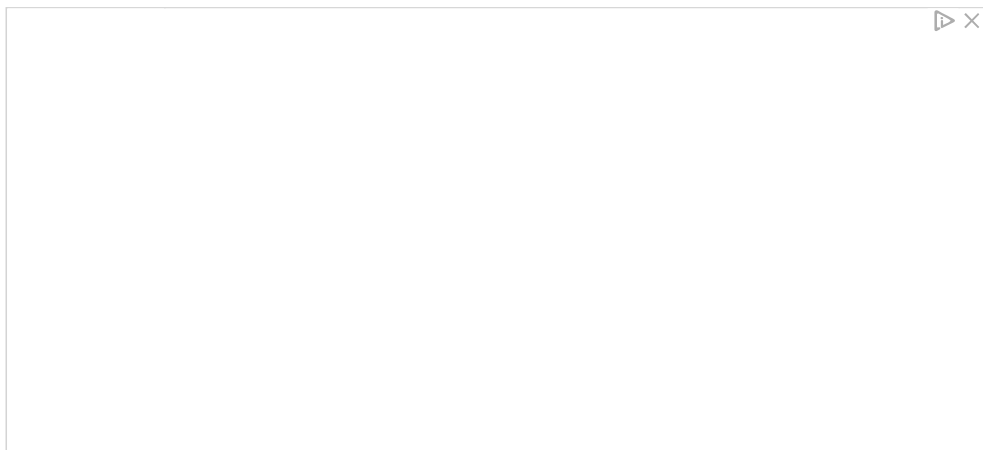


Each center will accept 150 people. We immigration officials do not know where they will be resettled and how long it will take. It will be handled by the government leaders.

What progress are you making issuing NVCs?

We have been issuing NVCs since Oct. 12 in the Shwe Za village tract of Maungdaw Township. So far we've issued 1,583 NVCs there, and 64 in the Nga Yan Chaung village tract in Buthidaung Township. And we issued NVCs to 132 displaced persons in Kyaung Gyi Lan Ward and 221 others at a camp at the Danyawaddy [sports] grounds in Sittwe, and 136 at the Taung Baw camp in Myebon. So we've issued a total of 2,131 NVCs. It is fair to say that there is some progress in issuing NVCs. In addition, we issued NVCs to 63 [people] in Aung Mingalar Ward in Sittwe. They have started to understand the benefits of NVCs and become cooperative.

What difficulties has the department faced issuing NVCs?



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Rakhine Immigration Chief Discusses Rohingya Repatriation, Citizenship

Most of them want to apply for NVCs. But there are people who disrupt it. That's why the process has been hindered. The process is in line with the wishes of people in Rakhine State, recommendations of the Kofi Annan-led Advisory Commission [on Rakhine State], and the 1982 Citizenship Law of Myanmar.

Why do they disrupt the NVC process?

Some think that they are not qualified...for citizenship. This is then coupled with disruption by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA). They disrupt because they won't be able to blend in if others are holding NVCs. If all the people on this side and the repatriated refugees hold NVCs, immigration officials, the Myanmar police force and border police can easily identify illegal immigrants. So ARSA spreads propaganda and disrupts the NVC process. They also threaten to brutally kill those who accept NVCs. Last month, a village administrator was killed brutally in Nyaung Bin Gyi village. He was both shot and knifed. This shows that there is disruption of the NVC process.

Why aren't Muslims in Sittwe and Pauktaw willing to apply for NVCs?

Those who believe that they are not eligible for citizenship are preventing the others who are likely to be eligible. Those who don't have complete documents think that they will stand out when those with complete documents get NVCs. And they believe that this will not be good for them. So they are causing disturbances. We have found that those who have applied for NVCs have come to us secretly. They want to apply for NVCs but are afraid of those who are causing disturbances.

You said they don't dare to apply for NVCs because of threats. Can't security be provided for them?

They are worried that they will be hated by those without complete documents if they apply for an NVC. So they don't apply openly. We are increasing security, but they are



<https://www.irrawaddy.com/in-person/rakhine-immigration-chief-discusses-rohingya-repatriation-citizenship.html>

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Rakhine Immigration Chief Discusses Rohingya Repatriation, Citizenship

afraid.

How many village administrators have been killed over the NVC process?

According to our records, 19 administrators have been killed [from October 2016 to Aug. 24, 2017].

Some Muslims said their grandparents and parents have pink cards and therefore they don't need to apply for NVCs. Are they right?

This is wrong. If their grandparents and parents have pink cards, they don't have to hold NVCs. If both parents hold pink cards, their children need not hold NVCs, they can apply for citizenship directly. But during the citizenship verification process, for example if they want to go fishing and reach international waters, they have to show their identity cards. In that case, they need to hold an NVC to show who they are. Holding an NVC will have no impact on the citizenship verification process if both of their parents are pink-card holders. They have misunderstood this.

What is your response to criticism that citizenship verification is a little bit complicated in practice?

That is said by those who don't understand Myanmar's Citizenship Law. There are two types of citizens — those who were born as citizen and those who get citizenship according to the law. Those who were born to parents who were both citizens are citizens from birth. They may not hold a citizenship ID card, but they are still citizens. Those who are eligible for citizenship under the 1982 law or the 1948 law may or may not have applied for their citizenship ID cards, but they are citizens. And their children are eligible for citizenship. We give the children citizenship ID cards because their parents are eligible for citizenship whether or not they hold ID cards. If parents are not eligible, their children will not get citizenship ID cards.



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Rakhine Immigration Chief Discusses Rohingya Repatriation, Citizenship

Topics: Rakhine, Rohingya



Min Aung Khine
The Irrawaddy



Annex 419

The Global New Light of Myanmar, “Repatriation of refugees to commence next Tuesday”, 17 January 2018

Available at:

<https://www.burmalibrary.org/sites/burmalibrary.org/files/obl/docs24/GNLM2018-01-17-red.pdf>

NAMES OF MORE THAN 1,300 ARSA TERRORISTS SENT TO BANGLADESH

P-7 (NATIONAL)

NATIONAL
VP U Myint Swe
inspects progress
of Chindwin Bridge
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NATIONAL
Trade volume at
Maungtau Trade
Zone exceeds target
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Lao PM visits
Shwedagon,
Thilawa SEZ
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Myanma Foreign
Trade Bank expands
financial services
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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Wednesday, 17 January 2018



Officials from Myanmar and Bangladesh discuss the repatriation of refugees at a meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Repatriation of refugees to commence next Tuesday

A repatriation plan was signed yesterday that will allow the return of Muslims who fled to Bangladesh to escape conflict in Myanmar last year, following a meeting of the neighbouring countries in Nay Pyi Taw.

Myanmar would receive the returnees who fled Rakh-

ine State five days per week, according to the statement released by Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The first meeting of the Joint Working Group on the Repatriation of Displaced Myanmar Residents from Bangladesh was held on Monday at

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and continued yesterday.

The Myanmar delegation was led by U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar. The Bangladeshi delegation was led by Mr. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of

Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh. The Physical Arrangement for Repatriation of Displaced Myanmar Residents from Bangladesh under the Return of the Displaced Persons from Rakhine State agreement was signed by the two sides yesterday.

SEE PAGE-3

Security agencies warned not to use State security garb

THE Ministry of Home Affairs has warned private security companies and organisations not to wear clothing or carry badges used by State security units.

“Action will be taken against those who wear similar uniforms of State security units under the law,” said the statement released by the ministry yesterday.

The ministry said it has learnt that private security agencies and organisations are using the uniforms of the State security bureau or similar uniforms.

According to Penal Code 171, wearing garb or carrying tokens used by public servants with fraudulent intent can be punished with a three-month jail sentence or a fine of Ks20,000.

Action will be taken against those who wear similar uniforms of State security units under the law.

The statement also quoted the Myanmar Official Secrets Act that reads: A person guilty of an offence for intruding into prohibited places, for helping others to intrude prohibited places or damage State security, for wearing uniforms of State security bureaus or similar uniforms shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or a fine, or both.—GNLM ■



‘BEST BANK IN MYANMAR’

Awarded by EUROMONEY 2017

Vice President U Myint Swe inspects progress of Chindwin Bridge

VICE President U Myint Swe yesterday inspected a bridge under construction over the Chindwin River in Khamti, Sagaing Region.

The Vice President arrived at the site yesterday afternoon along with Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr. Myint Nang, Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Phone Myat, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Soe and Maj-Gen Than Htut. They arrived in Khamti Township from Nanyun Town, where they attended

a New Year Festival in Naga Self-Administered Zone.

The Vice President inspected the Chindwin Bridge which is 92 per cent complete.

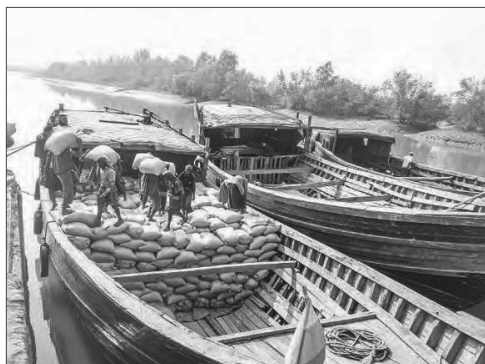
The bridge situated on Khamti-Hsintey-Lahe Road is 449.5 metres long, 8.5 metres wide and is flanked by one-metre wide pedestrian walkways.

After the inspection tour of the bridge, U Myint Swe and party returned to Nay Pyi Taw by a Tatmadaw Air Force special plane — Myanmar News Agency ■



Vice President U Myint Swe arrives Khamti to inspect Chindwin Bridge (Khamti) yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Trade volume at Maungtau Trade Zone exceeds target



Workers unloading rice bags at the jetty in Maungtau Trade Zone. PHOTO: AUNG MIN

BORDER trade in Maungtau, Rakhine State, exceeded the target of the 2017-2018 FY, reaching more than US\$9 million up to 14 January, according to an official of the trade zone.

The trade zone set the target of US\$6 million, with US\$5 million from exports and US\$1 million from imports in this current fiscal year, which started on 1 April and ended on 31 March.

"We did not have high expectations for the trade volume due to the situation here," said U Cho Htwe, In-charge of Maungtau Trade Zone.

So far, the trade zone has seen more than US\$5 million from exports of agricultural products, more than US\$3 million from fishery products, more than

US\$500,000 from forest products and more than US\$400,000 from industrial products, according to trade zone statistics.

Myanmar's main exports to Bangladesh are rice, ginger, silk, cotton, onions, fish, prawns, dried fish, bamboo, sugar cane and industrial goods.

Imports arriving through the Maungtau Border Trade Zone from Bangladesh have ceased since the terrorist attacks of October 2016.

The trade zones between Myanmar and Bangladesh mostly rely on the swell and ebb of the river, and the Kanyin Chaung trade zone is being developed to pave the way for larger cargo vessels, according to officials.— Aung Ye Thwin, Ko Min ■

Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank (MFTB) expands financial services

THE Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank (MFTB) provides international banking services for the State as well as for the private sector, co-operatives and joint ventures in Myanmar.

Besides international banking services, the MFTB offers additional monetary services for Myanmar currency banking services.

The MFTB conducts domestic and external trade, promoting the role of the private

sector and promoting foreign investments.

The MFTB is doing business in accordance with the Financial Institutions of Myanmar Law to conduct international banking and financial services, to provide external trade and non-trade foreign exchange operations in harmony with the market-oriented economy.

The MFTB contributes annual income tax to the state as

follows; In the 2014-2015 fiscal year, Ks5.42 billion together with Ks8.38 billion as a contribution to the state. In the 2015-2016 fiscal year Ks9.89 billion together with Ks18.54 billion as a contribution to the state. In the 2016-2017 fiscal year, Ks5.92 billion together with Ks9.48 billion as a contribution to the state, for a total over three of Ks57.65 billion, according to the MFTB. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Repatriation of refugees to commence...

FROM PAGE-1

According to the Physical Arrangement agreement, Myanmar will receive verified returnees at Taung Pyo Letwe reception centre for those who will be dispatched by land routes, and Nga Khu Ya reception centre for those who will be sent back by river routes.

Myanmar side will also use Hla Pho Kaung as transit camp for the returnees. Bangladesh will establish five transit camps. Myanmar will receive the returnees five days per week. Bangladesh will provide, in advance, the list of prospective returnees and duly filled verification forms to Myanmar side for smooth verification process, according to the agreement.

At the end of the meeting, Myanmar provided to Bangladesh detailed lists of 508 persons of Hindu faith and 750 persons of Muslim faith who

Both sides agreed that the repatriation process will commence on 23 January 2018.

have been verified as Myanmar residents and suggested the latter to include them in the first batch of repatriation.

Both sides agreed that the repatriation process will commence on 23 January.

The meeting also deliber-

ated on the current activities of ARSA terrorists. Myanmar had already provided a list of over 1,000 ARSA terrorists to Bangladesh at the BGP-BGB Central Meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw on 14 November 2017.

During the JWG meeting, Myanmar handed over the list to the Bangladesh delegation and requested that they be extradited in compliance with the Agreement on Border Arrangement and Cooperation (Border Ground Rules) signed in 1980. Myanmar also spoke of preventive measures to be taken in anticipation of possible attacks by ARSA terrorists during the course of the repatriation process. The crisis in Rakhine State erupted after Islamic terrorist attacks on security posts on 25 August. — GNLM ■

Annex 420

Htet Naing Zaw, “Camps Ready but Bangladesh Delays Repatriation of Refugees”, *The Irrawaddy*, 22 January 2018

Available at:

[https:// www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/camps-ready-bangladesh-delays-repatriation-refugees.html](https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/camps-ready-bangladesh-delays-repatriation-refugees.html)

Burma

Camps Ready But Bangladesh Delays Repatriation of Refugees



Bangladeshi officials register Muslim refugees at Kutupalong Refugee Camp in Bangladesh. / Reuters

By **HTET NAING ZAW** 22 January 2018

NAYPYITAW — Although Myanmar is ready to start repatriating Muslim refugees as of Wednesday, the Bangladeshi government has yet to complete a list of the refugees who will return as agreed under a bilateral agreement.

Abul Kalam, Bangladesh's refugee relief and rehabilitation commissioner, said on Monday that the return would have to be delayed. He did not immediately give a new date for the repatriations to begin.



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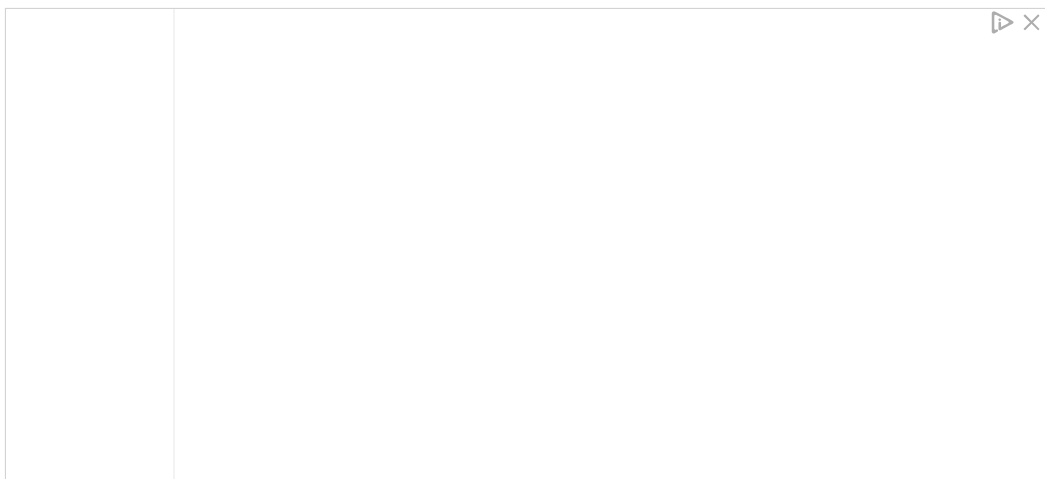
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Camps Ready But Bangladesh Delays Repatriation of Refugees



“There are many things remaining,” he told Reuters by phone. “The list of people to be sent back is yet to be prepared, their verification and setting up of transit camps is remaining.”

In late November, the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) and agreed to form a joint working committees within three weeks to work on repatriating the more than 620,000 Rohingya who fled to Bangladesh after a military crackdown triggered by Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army attacks on security posts in northern Rakhine State in late August.



Tents, buses, food and water supply and food have been prepared for the refugees at repatriation camps in Taungpyoletwe and Nga Khu Ya in Maungdaw, said Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye.

“According to the agreement, repatriation is set to begin on Jan. 23. So, we have made preparations. If we get the list, we can start tomorrow. But we have not yet received it,” the minister told reporters at parliament on Monday.

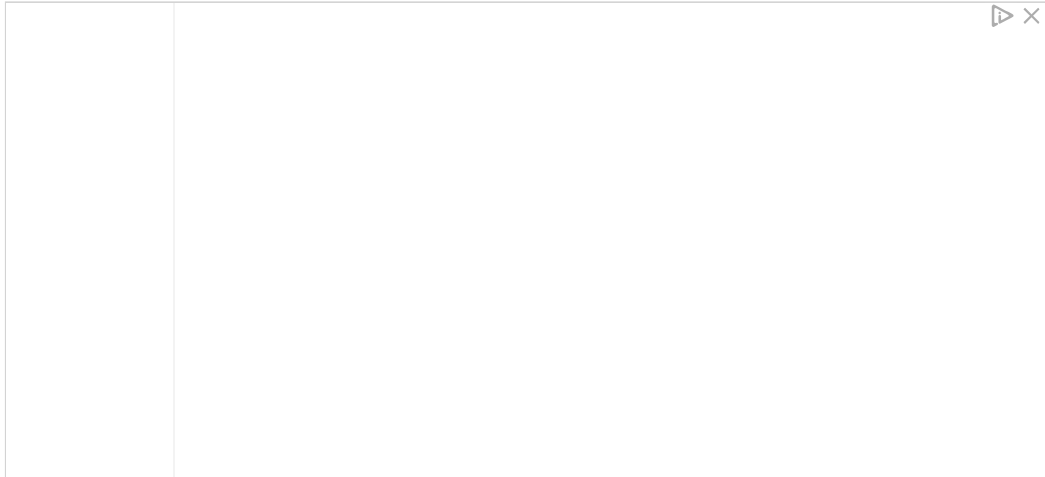


Annex 420

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Camps Ready But Bangladesh Delays Repatriation of Refugees

By the second week of January, the Myanmar government had verified over 1,200 refugees—750 Muslims and more than 500 Hindus—as refugees entitled to return. Under the MoU, the Bangladeshi government was to ask them if they were willing to return, and send the list of returnees prior to the repatriation.



According to the state-run Global New Light of Myanmar, returnees will be accommodated at a camp in Hla Po Khaung in northern Rakhine State, while their houses burned in clashes are rebuilt.

The decision from Bangladesh to delay the start of repatriation comes as tensions have risen in the camps holding the refugees, some of whom are opposing their transfer back to Myanmar because of lack of security guarantees.



In Naypyitaw, Lower House lawmaker U Aung Thaug Shwe of Buthidaung Township said the returnees would not be welcomed back in Rakhine State.



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Camps Ready But Bangladesh Delays Repatriation of Refugees

“We have not been informed by the government about what it is doing in the repatriation process. The Arakanese community doesn’t want them back as they believe that problems will flare again if they come back,” he said.

At the Palongkhali refugee camp, near the Naf River that marks the border between the two countries, a group of Rohingya leaders gathered early on Monday morning with a loudspeaker and a banner listing a set of demands for their return to Myanmar, Reuters reported.

These include security guarantees, the granting of citizenship and the group’s recognition in Myanmar’s list of ethnic minorities. The Rohingya are also asking that homes, mosques and schools that were burned down or damaged in the military operation be rebuilt.

Bangladesh army officials arrived at the protest and dispersed the crowd of 300. Witnesses said they saw the army take away one of the Rohingya leaders who was holding a banner.

Dr. Win Myat Aye, who is also vice-chairman of Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD), and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu inspected accommodations for returnees at repatriation centers on Jan. 15.

Additional reporting by Reuters.

Topics: Refugees



Htet Naing Zaw

The Irrawaddy

Htet Naing Zaw is Senior Reporter at the Burmese edition of The Irrawaddy.



Annex 421

Myanmar News Agency, “Ready to begin repatriation: Government”, *The Global New Light of Myanmar*, 24 January 2018

Available at:

<https://www.burmalibrary.org/sites/burmalibrary.org/files/obl/docs24/GNLM2018-01-17-red.pdf>

NATIONAL

VP U Myint Swe receives Prof. Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, committee members
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NATIONAL

Trial of two Reuters reporters begins
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NATIONAL

Advisory board for implementation of recommendations on Rakhine State, committee for implementation of recommendations on Rakhine State hold meeting
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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Wednesday, 24 January 2018



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, left, greets Nai Htaw Mon, Chairman of the New Mon State Party, in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Ready to begin repatriation: Government

MYANMAR is ready to launch the repatriation of refugees from Bangladesh despite a delay announced by Bangladesh authorities.

Under the agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh, repatriation was slated to begin yesterday.

“We are ready to accept the first batch of returnees today as agreed, because under the agreement with Bangladesh, we must start the repatriation within two months and today is the day we slated to launch the repatriation,” said Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement at the press conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

“... but some are trying to complicate this issue so that they can get international attention,” said Union Minister U Kyaw Tin. “

Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement at the press conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Myanmar has prepared two reception camps on its side of the border to take back up to 300 people per day.

“I want to reiterate that we are ready to accept the returnees from Bangladesh according to the list we sent to Bangladesh. To carry that out, we need international cooperation,” said U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

SEE PAGE-7

New Mon State Party, Lahu Democratic Union agree to sign Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement

TWO more armed ethnic groups agreed yesterday to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), bringing the total number of signatories to 10 and allowing them to participate in

the upcoming 21st Century Panglong-Union Peace Conference.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received delegations from the New Mon State Party (NMSP) and Lahu Dem-

ocratic Union (LDU), both of whom agreed to sign the NCA, at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The delegation from the

New Mon State Party was led by its Chairman Nai Htaw Mon, and the delegation from the Lahu Democratic Union was led by its Chairman Kya Khun Sar.

SEE PAGE-3



‘BEST BANK IN MYANMAR’

Awarded by FinanceAsia 2017

Advisory Board for Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State, Committee for Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State hold meeting

THE advisory board for the implementation of recommendations on Rakhine State, led by Prof. Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, former deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of Thailand, and the committee for implementation of the recommendations on Rakhine State, led by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, met in the meeting hall of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Kyaw Tint Swe, U Thauang Tun, U Win Khaing, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and U Kyaw Tin; Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut, secretary of the committee for implementation of the recommendations on Rakhine State; Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, joint secretary of the committee; Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development (UEHRD) in Rakhine Chief Coordinator Dr. Aung Tun Thet; and members, permanent secretaries, directors general, managing directors and officials of the committee.

At the meeting, Union



First meeting of the Advisory Board and the committee for implementation of the recommendations on Rakhine State held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Minister for Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe said the stability, peace and development in Rakhine State depends not only on the people of Myanmar but the entire human society, especially the two societies in Rakhine State. With regard to the events in Rakhine State, the country had formed an inquiry commission, led by Vice President U Myint Swe, and an advisory commission on Rakhine State, led by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

In addition to this, a committee for the implementation of the recommendations on Rakhine State, led by Dr. Win Myat Aye, was also formed. Suggestions and support of the advisory board for implementation of the recommendations on Rakhine State are also welcome, said the union minister.

Next, Prof. Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, leader of the advisory board, said the members of the advisory board included people from the political and

economic sectors. The advice and experiences of the advisory board will be provided to the committee. This will be an opportunity to exchange experiences on Rakhine State events, and the advisory board will be able to work together with the committee, said the leader.

Further, Dr. Win Myat Aye, chairman of the committee, explained about the committee's works and the UEHRD in Rakhine. Chief Coordinator Dr. Aung Tun Thet explained about

humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State, the resettlement works and the development project committee.

The advisory board and the committee then discussed the status of implementing recommendations on Rakhine State.

Later in the evening, the committee for implementation of the recommendations on Rakhine State hosted a dinner for the advisory board in M Gallery Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Ready to begin repatriation: Gov't

FROM PAGE-1

"We have heard the news that the Bangladesh side is not ready. As we have not received any official word, we contacted the Bangladeshi Embassy in Yangon and they said they have many steps to be taken," U Kyaw Tin, Minister of International Cooperation, told reporters in Nay Pyi Taw.

Under the Physical Arrangement for Repatriation signed by the two sides in Nay Pyi Taw on 16 January, Myanmar would receive verified returnees at Taung Pyo Letwe and Nga Khu Ya reception centres, while adding Hla Pho Kaung as a transit camp for the returnees.

"We will increase the number of returnees depending on the situation. We will review the repatriation process within three months," said U Thauang Tun, Union Minister for the Office of the Union Gov-

ernment.

Asked about coordination between the two governments, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye said Myanmar will carry on the repatriation process after seeking agreement with Bangladesh when the neighbouring country offers coordination.

"The governments of the two countries are trying to solve this issue, but some are trying to complicate this issue so that they can get international attention," said Union Minister U Kyaw Tin.

He also said that Myanmar sent forms to be filled out by returnees with the help of UNHCR and Bangladesh signed an agreement with UNHCR to carry out the repatriation process on their side and they need to take time to carry out several steps on the ground.

Asked if a time limit is set

for the repatriation, Dr. Win Myat Aye said the government is fully carrying out repatriation efforts and were ready to receive the returnees as of Tuesday.

"The repatriation is targeted to be accomplished within two years, or, it can finish before the two-year time frame, or it can take longer than the set time," said Dr. Win Myat Aye.

Regarding access to Rakhine State by reporters, Union Minister U Thauang Tun said journalists would get freedom of access to information, but safety is considered first in conflict areas and authorities are managing the situation there so as not to create unnecessary problems.

Seventeen journalists will soon go to Rakhine State along with the Rakhine Advisory Board, he added.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint receives Singapore's Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Vanessa Chan in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Dr. Pe Myint receives Singapore Ambassador and experts from French Communications

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint separately received Singapore Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Vanessa Chan and experts from French Communications, Ms Florence Bonetti and Mr SPHenri Clelorme, at the Ministry of Information guest hall yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting with Ms Vanessa Chan, Dr. Pe Myint discussed matters related to library works conducted in the two countries, the upgrade of libraries in

Myanmar to community centres and community libraries, Singapore's solution to preventing the spread of hate speech on social media and the status of media works in the two countries.

At the meeting with the two experts from French Communications, ways to engage in effective public relations were discussed.

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and other officials also attended the meeting.—MNA ■

Annex 422

Tatmadaw True News Information Team, “Officers, other ranks punished in connection with killing of 10 Bengalis”, *Myawady in English*, 11 April 2018

Annex 423

Thura Zaw, “Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye meets IDPs in Bangladesh”,
The Global New Light of Myanmar, 12 April 2018

Available at:

<https://www.burmalibrary.org/sites/burmalibrary.org/files/obl/docs24/GNLM2018-04-12-red.pdf>

DEVELOPMENT OF ELEPHANT CONSERVATION-BASED TOURISM

P-2 (NATIONAL)

NATIONAL

President U Win Myint meets with Anti-Corruption Commission



P-3

NATIONAL

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe attends Signing Ceremony



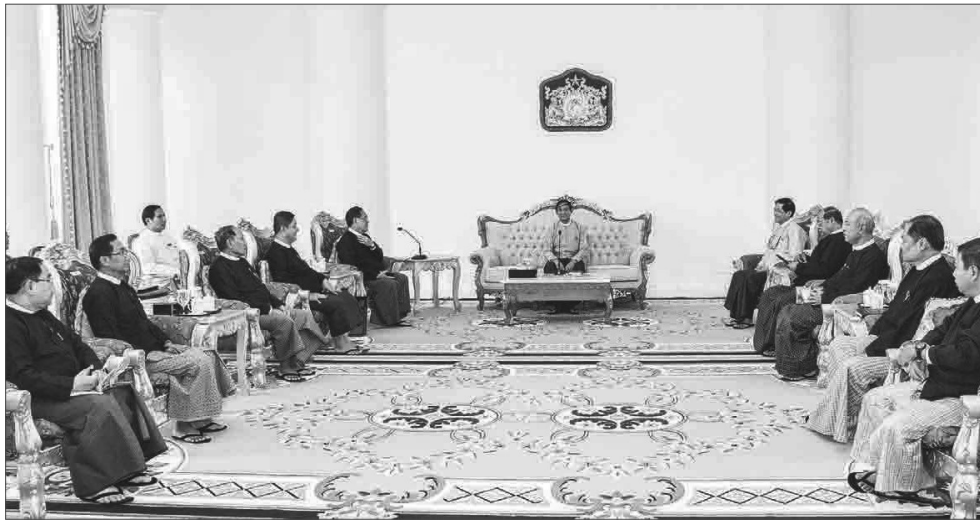
P-3

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 360, 12th Waning of Tagu 1379 ME

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Thursday, 12 April 2018



President U Win Myint, centre, meeting with Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo, sixth from left, and Supreme Court Judges yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

President meets Chief Justice and Supreme Court judges

PRESIDENT U Win Myint met with Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo and Supreme Court Justices at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday at 2 p.m.

During the meeting, the President discussed the work that needs to be accomplished to firmly establish the judiciary sector.

President U Win Myint also called for the conducting of responsible management at all levels, from the region and state to the township level.

The President further said there needs to be stricter regulations in maintaining court evidence, as loss and damage costs must be paid through the national budget.

He noted that greater amounts of foreign investment will flow into the country and the country's economy will develop only when there is rule of law and the country is free from corruption.

President U Win Myint said that skilled and truly capable persons must be assigned positions in the judiciary to strength-

en the sector. He noted that the Chief Justice has the responsibility to strengthen the entire country's judiciary sector and to properly guide judiciary officials at the state and regional level.

President U Win Myint urged Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo and Supreme Court judges to work to strengthen the judiciary sector with the help and support of organisations that provide legal aid and rule of law centres.

Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo briefed the President about the judiciary processes,

management of court evidence, challenges faced by courts, responsibilities taken by the Supreme Court of the Union, the number of court proceedings being conducted, and the status of reforming the organisational structure for employees.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister for the President's Office U Min Thu, as well as Supreme Court Judges U Thar Htay, U Mya Thein, U Myint Aung, U Aung Zaw Thein, U Mya Han, U Myo Tint, U Soe Naing, and U Khin Maung Kyi. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Mro ethnic villagers receive new houses

RAKHINE STATE authorities handed over new houses to Mro ethnic people at the Thittonna Gwason Village-tract in Maungtau Township yesterday.

The 86 houses were funded by the Ayeyawady Region Government and Mandalay Region Government, and handed over to Mro ethnic families from Karuchaung, Myatkaungtaung, Panchaung and Inn Chaung villages from Thittonna Gwason Village-tract in Maungtau Township.

The authorities also delivered a set of solar panels and a family kit, each donated by the Ministry of Industry to Mro ethnic families who lost their homes in terrorist attacks last year.

"We are delighted to stay in the new house in the plains area, instead of in the hills where we used to live," said U Aung Phaw, a Mro ethnic man. Following the ceremony, another 30 houses donated by Daw Khin Kyi Foundation and 10 houses by the Department for Development of Border Areas and National Races, were also handed over to Mro ethnic families from Kontaung Village. Authorities assisted ethnic people who moved into the houses and, along with solar panels and family kits, provided household utensils.

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Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye meets with people at IDP camps in Cox's Bazar, Chittagong. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye meets IDPs in Bangladesh

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye led a delegation to Bangladesh to visit the Ukha IDP camp in Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, and met with the district commissioner.

Dr. Win Myat Aye and his delegation were accompanied by Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh U Lwin Oo when they arrived in Ukha IDP camp's guest hall to meet with the district commissioner and UN representatives. They were briefed on the resettlement, food supply, and healthcare provided in the camp. The Union Minister and UEHRD Chief Coordinator Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet explained the reason for

their visit and noted that they are ready for the repatriation process of IDPs.

Afterwards, the Union Minister met with IDPs in the camp and explained to them about the development process in Rakhine, based on suggestions by the Rakhine Advisory Commission, the readiness for the repatriation process from Myanmar's side, the humanitarian aid provided in Rakhine, the UEHRD's resettlement project, the registration for national verification cards and its benefits, the freedom to travel, housing projects, vocational training, easy access to education and healthcare, and the ongoing process of closing IDP camps

that were established in 2012.

The Union Minister also explained to the IDPs that they were here to provide assistance to IDPs who wish to return to Myanmar before the rainy season sets in, and to help with any problems they may be facing in the host country. He also told them they are ready for the repatriation process to begin.

This was followed by the Union Minister, Dr. Aung Tun Thet, Myanmar Women's Affair Federation Chairperson Dr. Thet Thet Zin and officials meeting individually with the IDPs and discussing various matters. The Myanmar delegation then toured the camp on motor vehicles.—Thura Zaw ■



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat meets with Indian Ambassador Mr. Vikram Misri in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

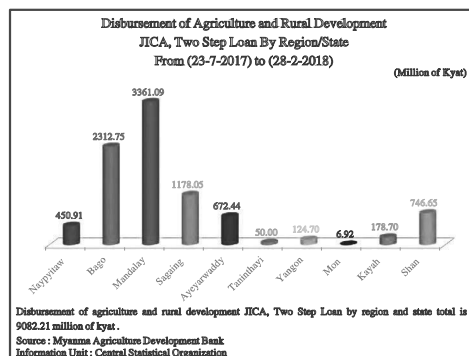
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat receives Indian Ambassador to Myanmar

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Vikram Misri at the Hluttaw building of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed the cooperation be-

tween Myanmar and India, and the legislative operations of the Hluttaw.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung alias U Tun Tun Hein and other officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Development of elephant conservation-based tourism

May Thet Hnin

THE Myanmar Timber Enterprise (MTE) is planning to develop Elephant Conservation-Based Tourism (ECBT) in time for the September tourist season in cooperation with the tour agencies.

Officials from the MTE discussed ECBT with officials from the tourism industry at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Travel Association office and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Yangon on 9 April.

The enterprise has so far opened 18 elephant camps across the country, with some 205 elephants. The MTE has explained the operation for the local and

foreign visitors. The entrepreneurs also shared their opinion on MTE's explanation.

"In 2016-2017, MTE suspended its logging operations for one year. Therefore, we have implemented ECBT for the conservation of more than 3,000 elephants and elephant mahout job opportunities", said an official from MTE.

Local and foreign tourists can feed, ride and wash the elephants. The visitors can also observe the elephant dancing at the camps. The visitors can also observe other significant places and other plantations which are very close to the elephant camp area. The elephant camps are also equipped with children's playgrounds and restaurants.

To attract the tourists, an elephant museum has been constructed inside some elephant camps. Some camps have also planted gardens to enhance the green environment. The MTE is planning to construct more places for the visitors to take a rest.

"There are thousands of tourists who visit the elephant camps in foreign countries every month. Therefore, we would like to suggest that we should build some small tents for the tourists to stay in and sell traditional foods. We also suggested to change the price. We have to make more decoration in this rainy season to attract more tourists", said U Min Thein, deputy chairman of the Republic of the

Union of Myanmar Travel Association. The entrepreneurs have proposed reducing entrance and riding fees for elephant camps.

"We will make a decision at the regular meeting of the enterprises", said U Moe Myint, Deputy General Manager of MTE.

"The admission fee for foreigner is Ks20,000 and the fee for riding an elephant for foreigners is Ks20,000. Therefore, nobody will ride the elephant. So, the entrance fees need to be changed for foreigners," said an entrepreneur who attended the meeting.

ECBT is conducted with the aim to implement elephant conservation and ecotourism at the same time, to create job opportunities for local people and

mahouts, and to earn the country income from the tourism industry. In 2016-2017 fiscal year, more than Ks120 million was earned from elephant camps. In 2017-2018, the income has increased to more than Ks300 million.

Thirteen elephant camps out of 18 have been opened in the time of the new government. The MTE has also planned to open more elephant camps other states and regions. There are more than 6,578 elephants in Myanmar, including 3,078 of MTE's elephants, 2,000 privately owned elephants and over 1,500 wild elephants. The MTE is conducting the elephant conservation effort in cooperation with international organisations. ■

Annex 424

A. Stevenson, “Facebook Admits It Was Used to Incite Violence in Myanmar”, *The New York Times*, 6 November 2018

Available at:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/06/technology/myanmar-facebook.html>

The New York Times

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/06/technology/myanmar-facebook.html>

Facebook Admits It Was Used to Incite Violence in Myanmar

By Alexandra Stevenson

Nov. 6, 2018

4 MIN READ

Facebook has long promoted itself as a tool for bringing people together to make the world a better place. Now the social media giant has acknowledged that in Myanmar it did the opposite, and human rights groups say it has a lot of work to do to fix that.

Facebook failed to prevent its platform from being used to “foment division and incite offline violence” in the country, one of its executives said in a post on Monday, citing a human rights report commissioned by the company.

“We agree that we can and should do more,” the executive, Alex Warofka, a Facebook product policy manager, wrote. He also said Facebook would invest resources in addressing the abuse of its platform in Myanmar that the report outlines.

The report, by Business for Social Responsibility, or BSR, which is based in San Francisco, paints a picture of a company that was unaware of its own potential for doing harm and did little to figure out the facts on the ground.

The report details how Facebook unwittingly entered a country new to the digital era and still emerging from decades of censorship, all the while plagued by political and social divisions.

But the report fails to look closely at how Facebook employees missed a crescendo of posts and misinformation that helped to fuel modern ethnic cleansing in Myanmar.

The report recommends that Facebook increase enforcement of policies for content posted on its platform; exercise greater transparency with data that shows its progress; and engage with civil society and officials in Myanmar.

Some Facebook detractors criticized the company on Tuesday for releasing the report on the eve of the midterm elections in the United States, when the attention of the news media and many of Facebook’s most vocal critics was elsewhere. Human rights groups said Facebook’s pledge needed to be followed up with more concrete actions.

“There are a lot of people at Facebook who have known for a long time that the company

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should have done more to prevent the gross misuse of its platform in Myanmar,” said Matthew Smith of Fortify Rights, a nonprofit human rights organization that focuses on Southeast Asia.

“This assessment is encouraging and overdue, but the key to any assessment is implementation,” Mr. Smith added.

Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director for Human Rights Watch, said Facebook’s actions in Myanmar would be “the acid test” to see if it became “a responsible platform manager with its own enforceable code of conduct.”

In response to a question about the timing of the release of the report, Facebook said it had previously committed to publishing the report at this time. It also said the report was in line with the company’s commitment to respond to growing concerns in Myanmar.

Two years after the 2016 election in the United States put the company under heightened scrutiny, Facebook has introduced a series of experiments meant to address the problem of misinformation on its platform. It has also set up fact-checking groups and altered its advertising practices to bar those who seek to spread false news.

But the company still faces scrutiny from lawmakers who say it is not doing enough. In some countries, Facebook’s experiments have helped to amplify fake stories, while its slower response in other developing countries, including Sri Lanka, has allowed rumors to spark violence.

Facebook has faced also sharp criticism for being too slow to act in the Philippines, another country where its ubiquity has led it to become a platform for spreading hate speech and false information.

In Myanmar, Facebook essentially is the internet — and, by extension, the only source of information — for some 20 million people, according to BSR’s estimates. Mobile phones sold there already have Facebook installed.

As Facebook’s presence in Myanmar grew in recent years, the company did not address what the BSR report calls a “crisis of digital literacy” in a country that was just emerging from a military dictatorship and where the internet was still new.

Many citizens in Myanmar, the report says, still do not know the basics of the internet — from using a browser to setting up an email account — and are not equipped to distinguish real information from rumor. The report warns that this could continue to be a problem for Facebook, especially during the country’s general elections in 2020.

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New problems could also arise related to WhatsApp, the messaging app owned by Facebook that is becoming popular in Myanmar.

WhatsApp has begun to play a leading role in elections, particularly in developing countries where it is being used by political parties, religious activists and others to spread information. In India's recent elections, some WhatsApp messages were used to incite tensions while others were found to be false.

In Myanmar, the prevalence of hate speech, disinformation and bad actors on Facebook "has had a negative impact on freedom of expression, assembly and association for Myanmar's most vulnerable users," the report says. This has led to the suppression of free speech; violence and hate campaigns; and self-censorship by women, minorities and other vulnerable members of society.

Myanmar military officials were behind a systematic campaign on Facebook to target a mostly Muslim Rohingya minority, an investigation by The New York Times found. Human rights groups say this campaign has led to murder, rape and forced migration.

Facebook took down the official accounts of military leaders in August. But some activists said the company still had not done enough.

"I don't think there will be a significant change," said Ye Wai Phyo Aung, the founder of Athan, a free-speech organization. Facebook should do more to prevent fake accounts from being created, he said.

"It's still easy to sign up for a Facebook account with fake names," he said. "The Facebook team should have worked on that."

Not everyone in Myanmar agreed with the blame placed on Facebook. Ye Myat Thu, the managing director of Alpha Computer Mandalay, an information technology firm, said the government needed to take action to enforce better behavior online and prevent violence.

"Facebook is just the platform," he said. "If there is no Facebook, people will use another platform. I see Facebook just as a product."

Annex 425

MNA, “MOFA explains Rakhine repatriation”, *The Global New Light of Myanmar*, 16 November 2018

Available at:

<https://www.burmalibrary.org/sites/burmalibrary.org/files/obl/docs25/GNLM2018-11-16-red.pdf>

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State Counsellor meets with Chinese Premier in Singapore

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses setting up new foreign economic relations ministry

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Friday, 16 November 2018



The 13th East Asia Summit is held in Singapore on 15 November, 2018. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor attends final day events of 33rd ASEAN Summit, related summits

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who is attending the 33rd ASEAN Summit in Singapore attended the ASEAN-India Informal Breakfast Summit, 6th ASEAN-US Summit, 21st ASEAN +3 Summit, East Asia Summit Luncheon, 13th East Asia Summit, closing ceremony of 33rd ASEAN Summit and related summits and a ceremony to hand over 2019 ASEAN alternate chairmanship to Thailand yesterday.

The State Counsellor at-

tended the ASEAN-India Informal Breakfast Summit held at the Suntec Expo Convention Center, Singapore at 8:30 a.m. local standard time.

Next, she attended the 6th ASEAN-US Summit and 21st ASEAN +3 Summit.

In the afternoon State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended the East Asia Summit Luncheon and 13th East Asia Summit.

In the afternoon the State Counsellor attended the closing

ceremony of the 33rd ASEAN Summit and related summits and a ceremony to hand over the ASEAN alternating chairmanship and a hammer representing the chairman's job to the Prime Minister of Thailand General (retired) Prayut Chan-o-cha.

At the event 2018 ASEAN alternating chairman Singapore Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong delivered a closing speech and then handed over the ASEAN alternating chair-

manship for 2019 and a hammer representing the chairman's job to the Prime Minister of Thailand General (retired) Prayut Chan-o-cha.

The ceremony came to a close after the Thai Prime Minister who is taking up the duty of ASEAN alternating chairmanship delivered a message of greeting.

The summits, closing ceremony and the ceremony to hand over the ASEAN chairmanship was attended by heads of state,

heads of government and ministers from ASEAN countries of Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, high ranking ASEAN officials, heads of state, heads of government, ministers and high ranking officials from ASEAN dialogue partner countries, ASEAN Secretary-General, ASEAN permanent representatives and officials. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

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Summit held to boost Myanmar-Singapore business ties

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Union AG holds coordination meeting with advocate generals, law officers

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MOFA explains Rakhine repatriation



Permanent Secretary U Myint Thu from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, center in right picture, explains about the repatriation process of the first batch of displaced people from Bangladesh and the possible reasons for its delay, during a press conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a press conference on the repatriation of displaced people from Bangladesh to Rakhine State in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Review of the situation on the ground

Permanent Secretary U Myint Thu from MOFA answered questions from the media. He said the press conference aimed to explain the first phase of repatriation between Myanmar and Bangladesh, which begins today.

U Myint Thu said he attended the third Myanmar-Bangladesh Joint-Working Group meeting in Dhaka on 30 October. He said an agreement was made to repatriate 2,261 people as the first batch of returnees on 15 November.

He said the 2,261 people slated to return to Rakhine state were on a list of 8,032 people sent by Bangladesh and were scrutinized at the Home Affairs Ministerial meeting held in Dhaka in February this year.

U Myint Thu said Bangladesh has informed Myanmar that the first batch of displaced people will return by sea route to the Nga Khu Ya Reception Centre, and later, they informed

that they will be taken to the Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre by road. He said Myanmar had completed preparations for their return.

The permanent secretary said that SWRR Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye had talked about his visit to the centres for repatriation and given information about them at a recent press conference in Yangon. Physical arrangements are complete on Myanmar's side and the 2,261 returnees will be accepted starting 7am, yesterday, said U Myint Thu.

He said officials are already in place at the Taung Pyo Letwe friendship bridge gate to welcome the returnees. The officials include Rakhine State's Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col. Phone Tint, who is also the Joint-Chairman of the Working Committee for Repatriation of Displaced People, and Rakhine State's Minister of Electricity, Industry, and Transportation U Aung Kyaw Zan, said U Myint Thu.

He added that Union Ministers Dr. Win Myat Aye and U Thein Swe, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, and other officials have also arrived

at the Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre.

Repatriation delayed

U Myint Thu said although preparations for receiving the returnees are complete, Bangladesh has still not sent any people. He offered his opinion that Bangladesh could not complete the physical arrangements thoroughly.

He said the list of 8,032 people was not filled out by the intended people themselves, and it is because of this that unnecessary delays are occurring.

U Myint Thu said he met with representatives of the displaced people in Kutupalong camp in Cox's Bazar on 31 October. He also met with Hindu representatives and said there are 438 Hindu people there that wish to return as soon as possible.

Possible causes for delay

The permanent secretary said the displaced people can be divided into three groups. The first group has people who wish to travel to a third country, such as Canada, from Bangladesh. This group may not have any desire to return to Myanmar, he said.

The second group has people who were involved in the ARSA terrorist attacks that occurred in 2016 and 2017, said U Myint Thu. He said these are the villagers who were recruited into ARSA to attack the 30 police posts and an army base. He said this group may not wish to return to Myanmar too.

The third group comprises of people who have homes and relatives left behind, own fields and fishing boats and have a business of their own. These people have the desire to return

...applying pressure to those who do not wish to return won't yield any results. Sending back people who wish to voluntarily return will start the repatriation process...

to Myanmar, said U Myint Thu.

He said applying pressure to those who do not wish to return won't yield any results. Sending back people who wish to voluntarily return will start the repatriation process, he said.

Continued cooperation

U Myint Thu said they will cooperate with neighboring countries and mentioned that China had donated 1,110 houses in the last month while India donated 250 and Japan donated houses too. He mentioned that ASEAN countries have announced they will provide support in Northern Rakhine as well.

He said the AHA Centre in Indonesia offered an invitation to cooperate with Myanmar during the 33rd ASEAN Summit held in Singapore recently. He said they will accept the offer.

U Myint Thu said they are also working together with UNDP and UNHCR in line with the MoU signed with them on 6 June 2018. He said they have conducted two Rapid Needs Assessments in Northern Rakhine in September and October. He said they regularly hold technical working group meet-

ings with UNDP and UNHCR and will continue cooperation processes.

He repeated himself and said the union ministers, Rakhine State chief minister and other officials are already in place at the Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre for the repatriation process which begins today.

He said they will follow the signed arrangement with Bangladesh and cooperate in the repatriation process. He said they will ensure the repatriation is voluntary, safe and dignified for the returnees.

He said he hopes the UNHCR does not operate in a hindering way regarding the repatriation of people who truly wish to return. He concluded by saying they will continue cooperating with Bangladesh in the repatriation process. He then replied to questions from the media.

Also attending the press conference were Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung from the Ministry of Information, Director-General U Ko Ko Naing from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, department officials, and local and foreign media members. — MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

...although preparations for receiving the returnees are complete, Bangladesh has still not sent any people...Bangladesh could not complete the physical arrangements thoroughly.

—U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary

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United News of Bangladesh, “Bangladesh, Myanmar can boost cooperation on Rohingya repatriation: UN”, 31 January 2019

Available at:

<https://unb.com.bd/category/Bangladesh/bangladesh-myanmar-can-boost-cooperation-on-rohingya-repatriation-un/11780>

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Bangladesh, Myanmar can boost cooperation on Rohingya repatriation: UN



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Bangladesh, Myanmar can boost cooperation on Rohingya repatriation: UN

UN chief's envoy on Myanmar to visit Dhaka in Feb

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Bangladesh, Myanmar can boost cooperation on Rohingya repatriation: UN

Bangladesh, Myanmar can boost cooperation on Rohingya repatriation: UN



Christine Schraner Burgener, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on Myanmar. File photo

Dhaka, Jan 31 (UNB) - Christine Schraner Burgener, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on Myanmar, has hoped that Myanmar and Bangladesh can further strengthen their cooperation on the issue of Rohingya repatriation, and intends to travel to Dhaka in February.

[https://unb.com.bd/category/Bangladesh/bangladesh-myanmar-can-boost-cooperation-on-rohingya-repatriation-un/11780\[03/05/2023 21:00:59\]](https://unb.com.bd/category/Bangladesh/bangladesh-myanmar-can-boost-cooperation-on-rohingya-repatriation-un/11780[03/05/2023 21:00:59])

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Bangladesh, Myanmar can boost cooperation on Rohingya repatriation: UN

She will also return to New York in February for internal consultations.

Her travel plans were established in December, and had not included Northern Rakhine state, as she had chosen to focus on restrictions on freedom of movement and spend substantive time with the people affected by this in and around Sittwe in a first instance.

“Dialogue will make Myanmar stronger,” the Special Envoy told leaders of the Arakan National Party during her visit to Rakhine, according to United Nations Information Centre, Yangon.

The Special Envoy encouraged them and ministers to publicly stand against discrimination and hate speech, and to embrace Myanmar’s diversity as an asset rather than a weakness.

She welcomed the stated willingness of the Rakhine leaders to accept the refugees’ return.

In light of recent assurances that the new NVC cards will no longer contain mentions of religion or ethnicity, she also encouraged the internally displaced people she met to consider applying for registration, so that they can move around within the country.

Christine Burgener was satisfied to hear the Rakhine State Minister explain in her presence to the internally displaced persons that the “NVC cards are not for foreigners, but for people residing in Myanmar. It is a first step towards citizenship. It applies to the whole country, even in the eastern part close to the Myanmar-Thai border, not just to Rakhine,” the Minister said.

She welcomed the recent creation of a Committee of the Pyithu Hluttaw to receive complaints related to

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Bangladesh, Myanmar can boost cooperation on Rohingya repatriation: UN

on-going citizenship applications as an important step towards transparency in the process.

The Special Envoy visited Myanmar from January 18 to 29.

During that time, she oversaw the installation of her new office in Nay Pyi Taw, where she also met with Union-level ministers and with the Chairperson of the Independent Commission of Enquiry.

She travelled to Sittwe, where she engaged with relevant government ministers at the state level, as well as with humanitarian agencies, political parties, civil society and displacement affected communities.

Christine Burgener also met the United Nations agencies, international non-governmental organisations and with the diplomatic community in Yangon.

Her visit to Sittwe focused on the obstacles and potential solutions for freedom of movement, which is restricted for many people in Rakhine state for different reasons.

“Freedom of movement is key for all people and their access to livelihoods. Without freedom of movement, children cannot go to local schools, and people still cannot access hospitals,” she said. “It is important to rebuild trust.”

[https://unb.com.bd/category/Bangladesh/bangladesh-myanmar-can-boost-cooperation-on-rohingya-repatriation-un/11780\[03/05/2023 21:00:59\]](https://unb.com.bd/category/Bangladesh/bangladesh-myanmar-can-boost-cooperation-on-rohingya-repatriation-un/11780[03/05/2023 21:00:59])

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Bangladesh, Myanmar can boost cooperation on Rohingya repatriation: UN

The Special Envoy welcomed efforts by the Union Government to draft a national strategy on “Closure of IDP Camps – Rebuilding Lives of IDPs in Safety and Dignity without Dependency” aimed at addressing and ending forced displacement that so many people all over Myanmar face.

She encouraged the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement to implement the strategy through concrete action plans as soon as possible, while adhering to international principles and standards and offering her assistance.

Christine Burgener lauded the drafting of an information sheet for the refugees in Cox’s Bazar that would help explain the process for their potential repatriation to Rakhine State, once the conditions there had become conducive for voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable returns.

She promised to request the Government of Bangladesh to help with its distribution during her next visit to Dhaka.

The Special Envoy understood that the current security situation in Northern Rakhine State made humanitarian access and the return of refugees to affected areas more difficult.

She nevertheless underlined the importance of allowing humanitarian organisations, international and local, to assist the civilian population in that area, and encouraged all sides to cease hostilities as soon as possible.

While expressing her condolences for the loss of life and displacement caused by the Arakan Army (AA) recent attacks by AA and the response by the Tatmadaw, the Special Envoy welcomed efforts by the parties to engage advocated for an inclusive negotiation process through dialogue.

When meeting representatives of the Tatmadaw, she welcomed the unilateral ceasefire declaration announced by the Commander in Chief on 21 December 2018, and urged them to reach out to all the ethnic armed organisations to invite them to dialogue.

She acknowledged that it was difficult to talk while fighting was on-going. Despite ongoing security

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Bangladesh, Myanmar can boost cooperation on Rohingya repatriation: UN

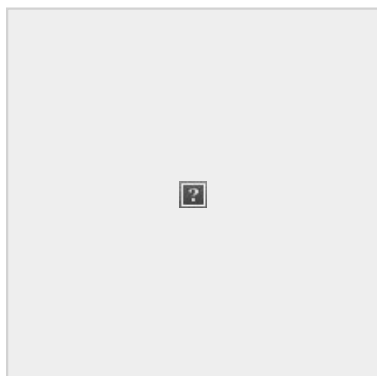
challenges, the Special Envoy invited the army leaders to keep the door open for negotiations.

“Now it is even more important to talk,” she urged. In that context, she also welcomed the recent transfer of the General Administration Department to the Union Ministry of Government as a potential first step towards decentralisation and federalism, two key points in the peace process.

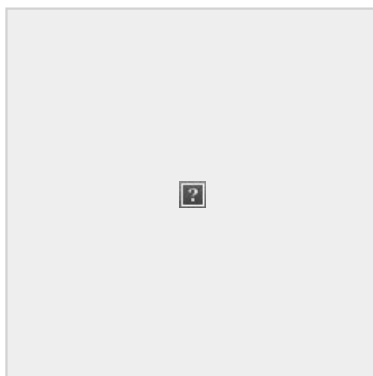
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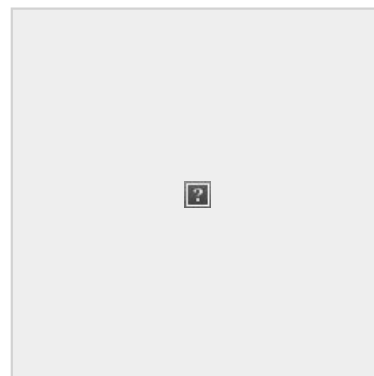
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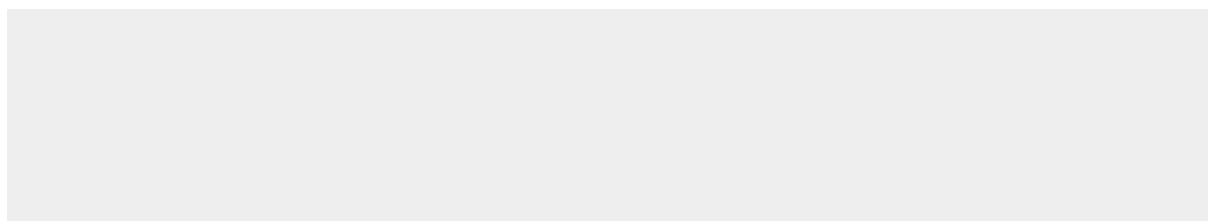


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S. Lewis, P. McPherson and R. Paul, “In Rohingya camps, a political awakening faces a backlash”, *Reuters*, 24 April 2019

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MEDIA AND TELECOMS APRIL 24, 2019 / 1 10 AM / UPDATED 4 YEARS AGO

In Rohingya camps, a political awakening faces a backlash

By Simon Lewis, Poppy McPherson, Ruma Paul

10 MIN READ



KUTUPALONG REFUGEE CAMP, Bangladesh (Reuters) - It was after Mohib Ullah scored his first political victories that the death threats began in earnest. On a recent morning, the Rohingya refugee leaned back on a plastic chair in the Bangladesh camp where he lives, and translated the latest warning, sent over the WhatsApp messaging app.

ADVERTISE



Mohib Ullah, a leader of Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights, talks on the phone in Kutupalong camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh April 7, 2019. REUTERS/Mohammad Ponir Hossain

"Mohib Ullah is a virus of the community," he read aloud, with a wry chuckle "Kill him wherever he is found."

The 44-year-old leads the largest of several community groups to emerge since more than 730,000 Rohingya Muslims fled Myanmar after a military crackdown in August 2017.

In the refugee camps in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district a nascent civil society is emerging among the Rohingya, who spent decades under apartheid-like restrictions in Myanmar.

Some campaigners are seeking justice for alleged atrocities in Myanmar, a small cadre of women are raising their voices for the first time, and others are simply working to improve life in the new city of tarpaulins and bamboo that, after the latest influx, is home to more than 900,000 people.

[https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-rohingya-politics-insight-idUSKCN1S000D\[29/03/2023 17:33:59\]](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-rohingya-politics-insight-idUSKCN1S000D[29/03/2023 17:33:59])

Annex 427

In Rohingya camps, a political awakening faces a backlash | Reuters

Mohib Ullah himself was invited to Geneva last month, where he told the United Nations Human Rights Council the Rohingya want a say over their own future

But the political awakening has been accompanied by a surge in violence, with militants and religious conservatives also vying for power, more than a dozen refugees told Reuters. They described increasing fear in the camps, where armed men have stormed shelters at night, kidnapped critics and warned women against breaking conservative Islamic norms.

The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, or ARSA, which sparked the 2017 crisis with attacks on security posts, is resurgent in the camps, refugees say, alongside several other armed groups. The group is also known as Harakah al-Yaqin - the movement of faith.

“In the daytime, the al-Yaqin guys become normal people,” said one young woman, who like other refugees requested anonymity to speak about the group without fear of reprisals. “They mix with everyone else. But at night it’s like they have a kind of magical power.”

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DIALOGUE, AND THREATS

Reuters conducted dozens of interviews with UN staff, diplomats, Bangladeshi officials and researchers about the forces competing for influence in the world’s largest refugee settlement.

While some are hopeful the stateless Rohingya are beginning to find a political voice, there are also fears that a turn to violence threatens to make solving the refugee crisis through dialogue impossible and could bring more instability.

“Refugee camps in many parts of the world are becoming recruitment grounds for terrorists,” said Mozammel Haque, the head of Bangladesh’s cabinet committee on law and order. “God forbid, if something like that happens, this will not only affect Bangladesh but the whole region.”

Myanmar government spokesman Zaw Htay did not answer calls seeking comment. Zaw Htay said during a press conference in January that Myanmar had complained to Bangladesh over what he said were ARSA bases inside Bangladesh.

The frontline in the struggle for the Rohingyas’ future are the bamboo huts where refugees take shelter from the heat and dust of the camp to voice their views. In the makeshift office of his group, the Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights, or ARSPH, Mohib Ullah convenes an open meeting each morning.

“We couldn’t gather more than five people in Myanmar, so when we have this kind of huge gathering it makes us very happy,” said 57-year-old Abdul Fayeze, one of several dozen refugees gathered cross-legged on the floor at a recent meeting.

ARSPH made its name documenting alleged atrocities the Rohingya suffered in Myanmar. Mohib Ullah went from hut to hut to build a tally of killings, rape and

[https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-rohingya-politics-insight-idUSKCN18000D\[29/03/2023 17:33:59\]](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-rohingya-politics-insight-idUSKCN18000D[29/03/2023 17:33:59])

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In Rohingya camps, a political awakening faces a backlash | Reuters

arson that has been shared with international investigators [nL4N1V846E]

Last year it won a victory with a campaign for the refugees to have more say in the process of issuing identity cards, calling a general strike in the camps in November that forced Bangladeshi officials and UN staff to meet ARSPH leaders

It now says its main goal is to give the Rohingya a voice in international talks on their future



Slideshow (6 images)

But not everyone agrees with ARSPH's approach. Hardliners in the camps argue for a more assertive stance in talks on the terms under which the refugees might return to Myanmar.

"We are flexible, we want to negotiate," said a senior leader of ARSPH, who requested anonymity. "But we fear we may be harmed because of this." ARSA was among Mohib Ullah and ARSPH's antagonists, the leader said.

Mohib Ullah was involved in local politics back in Myanmar, drawing accusations from opponents that he worked too closely with the hated government. "If I die, I'm fine. I will give my life," Mohib Ullah told Reuters.

NIGHT TERRORS

Bangladesh security forces patrol the perimeter of the camps to stop refugees slipping out. But, especially at night, the warren-like interior is run by violent men, refugees told Reuters.

In at least some parts of the camps, those men claim affiliation to ARSA, said more than half a dozen refugees. UN officials and NGO workers monitoring the group's activities say it is unclear how many of those men are under orders from the group's leadership. But some of them have asked wealthier refugees and shopkeepers to pay regular taxes, saying the money will be used to fight back in Myanmar, refugees said.

One refugee, who volunteers as an aid worker in the camps, told Reuters he had witnessed a kidnapping in January by men he believed to be from ARSA.

Men with wooden sticks moved swiftly into an area of the camps known as Jamtoli and took away a man who refused to attend one of the group's meetings, he said. "They just carried him off like a goat to the slaughter."

Reuters was unable to corroborate the incident or find out what happened to the man, but five refugees from the same area said men they knew had been involved in ARSA attacks inside Myanmar were now involved in kidnappings in Jamtoli.

Reuters was unable to reach ARSA for comment.

Researchers for Fortify Rights have also gathered testimony that ARSA had abducted at least five Rohingya refugees in recent months, the campaign group said on March 14.

A posting from a Twitter account previously used by the group called the Fortify Rights report "shallow, shoddy, and not aptly verified" and denied allegations that ARSA was involved in criminal activity.

Police have recorded an escalation in violence in the camps in recent months, said Iqbal Hossain, additional superintendent of police in Cox's Bazar.

"So far we have not found any link to any militant groups," said Hossain, adding there were just 992 officers policing the camps.

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In Rohingya camps, a political awakening faces a backlash | Reuters

In response to Reuters' questions about reports of ARSA involvement in the violence, the UN refugee agency cited police reports that found most violence and threats in the camps were carried out by "criminal elements or related to personal vendettas"

Two UN officials and several researchers working regularly in the camps told Reuters ARSA was behind at least some of the violence, however, citing sources among the refugees

"YOU DIDN'T LISTEN"

ARSA launched three attacks across the border in Myanmar early this year, according to state media there, and in February vowed to continue its armed campaign

ARSA propaganda portrays the group as ethnic freedom fighters and does not emphasize a religious agenda. But some refugees and a report by an international NGO seen by Reuters say its members, together with Islamic leaders, have promoted ultra-conservative religious practices

Four women told Reuters they had received threats for going out to work for aid groups in the camps, where many have begun doing paid work for the first time in their lives

Three said men from ARSA, backed up by religious leaders, issued the threats. Fortify Rights also said it had gathered testimony linking ARSA to the threats against women working. ARSA on Twitter denied that, insisting it "has no activities/objectives except for defending Rohingyas' legitimate rights"

UN officials and aid workers discussed the threats at a series of meetings of the "protection sector working group" in Cox's Bazar, according to minutes

"There is a complex combination of factors that have contributed to the threats and restrictions on women in refugee camps, which we are all seeking to address," the UN refugee agency said

Mohammed Kamruzzaman, an education sector specialist at Bangladeshi aid group BRAC, told Reuters that 150 of its female teachers had stopped coming to work in late January after receiving or hearing about the "violent threats"

One woman in her late 30s told Reuters she had received a phone call in late January telling her she must immediately quit her job at BRAC. Two nights later a group of about 10 men, dressed in black and wearing masks barged into her shelter

"They said, 'We told you not to go out and work, you didn't listen'," she said. "One of them beat me with a stick on my back."

Another young woman, who was also threatened, summed up the divide in the camps

"We are just doing something good for our community," she said. "Some people support them, but many feel like us. They put superglue over our mouths."

Reporting by Simon Lewis, Poppy McPherson and Ruma Paul; Editing by Alex Richardson

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Annex 428

M. Zaveri, “Trump Pardons Ex-Army Soldier Convicted of Killing Iraqi Man”, *The New York Times*, 6 May 2019

Available at:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/06/us/trump-pardon-michael-behenna.html>

The New York Times

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/06/us/trump-pardon-michael-behenna.html>

Trump Pardons Ex-Army Soldier Convicted of Killing Iraqi Man

By Mihir Zaveri

May 6, 2019

3 MIN READ

President Trump on Monday granted a full pardon to a former Army lieutenant who previously served five years in prison for fatally shooting an Iraqi man in American custody.

During a deployment in Iraq in 2008, First Lt. Michael Behenna and his platoon believed the man, Ali Mansur, was a terrorist linked to Al Qaeda. They took him to a remote part of the Iraqi desert to question him about a previous attack that left two American soldiers dead, according to court filings. During the interrogation, Lieutenant Behenna shot Mr. Mansur in the head and chest.

Mr. Behenna has said he acted in self-defense and that Mr. Mansur had thrown a piece of concrete at him and reached for his gun.

In 2009, the military court found him guilty of “unpremeditated murder in a combat zone,” and he was sentenced to 25 years in prison, the White House said in a statement Monday. He was released on parole in 2014.

In its statement, the White House said that Mr. Behenna “has attracted broad support from the military, Oklahoma elected officials, and the public.”

“Further, while serving his sentence,” it continued, “Mr. Behenna was a model prisoner. In light of these facts, Mr. Behenna is entirely deserving of this Grant of Executive Clemency.”

Efforts to reach Mr. Behenna on Monday night were unsuccessful.

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The case, which drew national attention, came at a time when the military was increasingly being scrutinized over its treatment of detainees. Many, however, supported Mr. Behenna, and said he had acted justifiably to help American troops in wartime.

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Trump Pardons Ex-Army Soldier Convicted of Killing Iraqi Man - The...

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/06/us/trump-pardon-michael-behenn...>

The Oklahoma attorney general sent at least three letters over a period of more than a year seeking Mr. Behenna's pardon. He said that Mr. Behenna did not deserve "the label 'murderer,' or the lifelong punishment and stigma that come with being a federal criminal."

"Simply put, American troops risking their lives in war to protect us deserve a better legal process than the hand that was dealt to Behenna," one letter states.

Before the pardon, Mr. Behenna was barred in Oklahoma from voting and owning firearms, and would be disqualified from some jobs.

Mr. Trump's pardon is in keeping with statements he has made in support of Maj. Mathew L. Golsteyn, a Green Beret charged by the Army in the 2010 killing of a man linked to the Taliban.

"At the request of many, I will be reviewing the case of a 'U.S. Military hero,' Major Matt Golsteyn, who is charged with murder," Mr. Trump wrote on Twitter. "He could face the death penalty from our own government after he admitted to killing a Terrorist bomb maker while overseas."

In Mr. Behenna's case, Mr. Mansur was bound and blindfolded during the interrogation, which lasted between two and three minutes, according to the court filing. Mr. Mansur's clothes were cut off with a knife.

"This is your last chance to tell the information or you will die," Lieutenant Behenna told Mr. Mansur, according to a military court filing. Mr. Mansur said that he would talk, it said, but Lieutenant Behenna shot him.

Lieutenant Behenna told other soldiers after the killing that "he would do it again, and he did not feel bad about it because he just lost two guys," according to the filing.

Annex 429

E. Batha, “Factbox: Where are the world’s stateless people?”, *Reuters*, 26 June 2019

Available at:

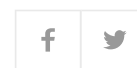
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-global-statelessness-conference-factb-idUSKCN1TR00J>

AMERICAS-TEST-2

JUNE 26, 2019 / 1:16 AM / UPDATED 4 YEARS AGO

Factbox: Where are the world's stateless people?

By Emma Batha



THE HAGUE (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - An estimated 10 to 15 million people are not recognized as nationals by any country, often depriving them of basic rights most of the world takes for granted such as education, healthcare, housing and jobs.

An international conference opening in The Hague on Wednesday will assess progress on a United Nations campaign called #Ibelong which aims to end statelessness by 2024.

Here are some examples of stateless populations:

MYANMAR/BANGLADESH: In 1982, Buddhist-majority Myanmar passed a citizenship law that effectively rendered stateless most Rohingya, who are Muslim and of South Asian descent.

Ethnic violence has driven many to leave, but hundreds of thousands remain in Myanmar. There are about 900,000 Rohingya in neighboring Bangladesh and smaller populations across Asia.

Some are sold into slavery on fishing boats and plantations.

IVORY COAST: Ivory Coast is home to 692,000 stateless people. Many are descended from migrants, particularly from Burkina Faso, Mali and Ghana, who were encouraged to work on Ivory Coast's coffee and cotton plantations in the 20th century.



Annex 429

5/3/23, 7:28 PM

Factbox: Where are the world's stateless people? | Reuters

At least a quarter of Ivory Coast's population is estimated to be of foreign descent and the question of who is or is not Ivorian helped fuel two civil wars in French-speaking West Africa's largest economy.

THAILAND: Nearly 479,000 people are stateless, including members of ethnic hill tribes such as the Yao, Hmong and Karen who live in the mountainous border with Myanmar and Laos and the semi-nomadic 'Sea Gypsies' along the Andaman coast.

ESTONIA/LATVIA: When the Soviet Union broke up, many ethnic Russians were stranded in the new Baltic states and defined as "non-citizens".

Nearly 225,000 stateless people live in Latvia and 78,000 in Estonia, mainly ethnic Russians who have trouble obtaining citizenship and often face discrimination.

SYRIA: In 1962, many Kurds in the northeast were stripped of citizenship, a move that Human Rights Watch described as part of a plan to "Arabise" the resource-rich region.

Before the civil war, there were an estimated 300,000 stateless Kurds in Syria, many of whom were promised nationality by President Bashar al-Assad in reaction to the 2011 uprising.

U.N. data suggests the number of stateless fell to 160,000, but this is most likely because many fled the war.

Experts on statelessness have warned that babies born to Syrian refugee women in Lebanon and Jordan could end up stateless.

KUWAIT: Many people among the nomadic Bedouin tribes failed to acquire citizenship at independence in 1961. Their descendants are known as Bidoon, which means "without" nationality in Arabic.

There are about 92,000 Bidoon in Kuwait, according to U.N. data but some estimates are much higher. They are often barred from free education, healthcare and many jobs.

NEPAL: Although Nepal says it does not have a stateless population, experts on statelessness believe many people, possibly hundreds of thousands, may be affected.

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5/3/23, 7:28 PM

Factbox: Where are the world's stateless people? | Reuters

Part of the problem derives from a law banning women married to foreigners passing their nationality to their children. There is also a stateless population of people who were expelled by Bhutan in the 1990s.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: A 2013 court ruling, along with earlier changes to nationality laws aimed at tackling illegal migration, has left many stateless, mostly people of Haitian descent who were born in Dominican Republic.

In 2015, there were about 134,000 stateless people, according to U.N. data, but the figures are being updated.

IRAQ: There are about 47,500 stateless people who include Bidoon, Palestinian refugees and Faili Kurds, an ethnic group that historically live both sides of the Iraq-Iran border.

At least 150,000 Faili Kurds had their nationality revoked in 1980 under the Ba'ath regime. Although many have since had their nationality reinstated, others remain stateless.

EUROPE: Tens of thousands of stateless Roma - an ethnic group with origins in India - are thought to live in central and eastern Europe. With the break-up of Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, successor states claimed they belonged elsewhere.

Other Roma in Kosovo and Bosnia have become stateless due to war-time displacement.

Roma families often do not register their children's births or hold official property titles, preferring to pass houses to relatives informally. This can make it hard to prove where they are from.

COLOMBIA: Up to 25,000 children born to Venezuelan parents who have fled to Colombia amid a political and economic crisis in their homeland may be stateless or are at risk. Children must have at least one Colombian parent to qualify for citizenship. [nL5N22Z5IC]

Sources: U.N. refugee agency (UNHCR), Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion

Reporting by Emma Batha @emmabatha; Editing by Katy Migiro. Please credit the Thomson Reuters Foundation, the charitable arm of Thomson Reuters, that covers humanitarian news, women's and

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Factbox: Where are the world's stateless people? | Reuters

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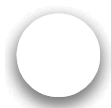
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Annex 430

MNA, “Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, High level Myanmar Delegation meet with representatives of displaced persons at Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh”, *The Global New Light of Myanmar*, 1 August 2019

Available at:

<https://www.burmalibrary.org/sites/burmalibrary.org/files/obl/GNLM2019-08-01-red.pdf>

NATIONAL

State Counsellor receives Japan's Foreign Minister in Nay Pyi Taw

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High level Myanmar Delegation meet with representatives of displaced persons at Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thursday, 1 August 2019

State Counsellor, Japanese FM hold joint press conference

STATE COUNSELLOR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Japanese Foreign Minister Mr Taro Kono met at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday morning.

During the joint press conference after the meeting, Mr Taro Kono said that he was pleased to visit Myanmar for the third time as foreign minister, and reaffirmed that Japan would continue providing assistance to support the State Counsellor and the Myanmar government in the economic, social and other sectors.

He also added that as a historic and partner country, Japan would provide assistance to Myanmar as she was encountering tough challenges, and said that peace and stability were essential for building a democratic state.

Mr Taro Kono also said that Japan would also support peace-making efforts in Myanmar with very firm determination. He added that in today's meeting very productive discussion and exchange of views had been held with respect to the situation in Rakhine State.

He said he valued the efforts made by the Myanmar government to bring back the displaced persons from Bangladesh. He hoped that the Myanmar government would accelerate its implementation efforts including the work of the ICOE - Independent Commission of Enquiry.



State Counsellor and Foreign Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Taro Kono hold a joint press conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on 31 July. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar and Japan football teams would be facing each other in the second round of the 2022 World Cup Asian qualifying in the same group, and would be playing a match in Yangon in September.

In conclusion, he expressed his expectation for stronger ties of friendship between Myanmar and Japan through relations at a multi-dimensional level.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi first expressed her appreciation to host the Japanese Foreign Minister, as she believed

his visit reflected the friendly relations between the two countries.

She also acknowledged the continuous and steadfast assistance provided by Japan in the ongoing peace efforts of the Myanmar government.

The State Counsellor added she believed and understood Japan's willingness to help Myanmar in solving the Rakhine issue that has grabbed global attention.

She also reiterated that the problem of the displaced persons was a bilateral issue between the

two countries, but Myanmar appreciated Japanese kind offer to help in solving this problem.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also said that it was the goal of the Myanmar government to work for the safety, stability, progress and development of all citizens; to this end the Myanmar government has been striving for improvement in all fields such as social, economic and political. She expressed her deep appreciation for the assistance being provided by friends in Japan to help her in

her efforts.

The State Counsellor said that she was eagerly waiting to watch the Myanmar-Japan football match that was about to take place in the near future as it could help strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries. No matter what the outcome of the football match might be, she believed that it would further strengthen the friendly and close relations between the two countries.

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Pyithu Hluttaw's sixth day meeting discusses proposals, bill

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PARLIAMENT

Amyotha Hluttaw approves further review of Import Control Bill

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Myanmar Investment Commission approves investment proposal which will create over 3,000 job opportunities

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NATIONAL

Myanmar objects the comments by Malaysian Leader

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Myanmar objects the comments by Malaysian Leader

U MYINT THU, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, received Mr Zahairi Baharim, Ambassador of Malaysia to Myanmar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 31 July 2019 at 3:00 pm.

Permanent Secretary

expressed his dismay and objected to the comments recently made by Malaysian Prime Minister that displaced persons should be treated as nationals or be given a chance to form their own state and that genocide is happening in

the country.

Permanent Secretary further stated that such allegations are not supportive to the ongoing efforts of Myanmar Government and ASEAN in finding a sustainable solution for peace, development and

social harmony in Rakhine State. It was also against the ASEAN's cardinal principles of non-interference in the internal affairs and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of ASEAN Member States.

The Malaysian Ambassador was also informed that Myanmar categorically rejects allegation on genocide in Myanmar, which is not constructive and in breach of the principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter.—MNA ■

Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, High level Myanmar Delegation meet with representatives of displaced persons at Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

A HIGH level Myanmar delegation led by U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and ASEAN ERAT Team comprised of officials from the ASEAN Secretariat and the AHA Centre, paid an official visit to Bangladesh from 27 to 29 July 2019.

Myanmar delegation and ASEAN ERAT Team left Dhaka for Cox's Bazar by air on 27 July 2019 and met with some 50 displaced persons from various camps at the Office of Camp No 4, Cox's Bazar.

Those present at the meeting were U Lwin Oo, Myanmar Ambassador to the Republic of Bangladesh, Mr Md Delwar Hossain, Director-General, South Asia Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, Mr Manjural Karim Khan Chowdhury, Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Mr Md Abul Kalam, Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner and responsible officials.

Permanent Secretary briefed the displaced persons on the preparations for the repatriation, including the construction of buildings, repatriation process at the Reception Centres and Transit Centre, prevalence of law and order, access to education and health, citizenship in line with the 1982 Citizenship Law, benefits of NVC Card, creation of job opportunities, and social cohesion among various communities, among others. ASEAN ERAT Team members also explained on the outcomes of the Preliminary Needs Assessment (PNA) conducted in Northern Rakhine State and possible areas of cooperation between Myanmar and ASEAN to support the repatriation process.

Permanent Secretary also handed over Factsheets on repatriation process, prepared in Myanmar and English languages, to Mr Md Abul Kalam, Refugee



U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, briefs the displaced persons on the repatriation process. PHOTO: MNA

Relief and Repatriation Commissioner for distribution among the prospective returnees in the camps. Furthermore, he circulated among the displaced persons who were present at the meeting.

In the evening, Myanmar Repatriation Task Force held a meeting with Bangladesh counterparts in order to address the difficulties and challenges in the verification process of displaced persons, particularly the need to comply with the agreed verification form.

On 28 July 2019, Myanmar delegation and ASEAN ERAT Team revisited the Office of Camp No 4 and met again with the displaced persons from various camps in Cox's Bazar. They discussed issues focusing on the continued dialogue and engagement between the Myanmar delegation and ASEAN ERAT Team with the prospective returnees, citizenship, and the prevalence of peace and stability upon their return.

Permanent Secretary explicitly explained that 1982 Citizenship Law also contains the eligibility of naturalized citizenship, and the decision to return

should be made by their own volition without fear or favour.

Myanmar delegation and ASEAN ERAT Team then visited the Front Office of Camp No. 4, where they met with the representatives of the United Nations Agencies, including UNHCR, WHO, WFP, IOM, UNDP and ICRC. They briefed the United Nations representatives on the outcome of the visit to Cox's Bazar, cooperation between Myanmar and ASEAN in the repatriation process, and Myanmar's continued cooperation with UNDP and UNHCR in line with the Memorandum of Understanding, including the implementation of Quick Impact Projects in Northern Rakhine State.

Permanent Secretary and ASEAN ERAT Team explained on the queries raised by the United Nations representatives, specifically on the citizenship in line with the Citizenship Law, the National Camp Closure Strategy, access to education and health and activities to promote social cohesion among various communities.

Subsequently, Myanmar Delegation and ASEAN ERAT

Team received the representatives from Hindu and Christian communities, who were currently residing in Cox's Bazar. Permanent Secretary explained on the cooperation with Bangladesh authorities for the return of Hindu communities. District Commissioner of Maungdaw District, Rakhine State Government, U Soe Aung and Executive Member of the Interfaith Dialogue Group, U Ragu Ne Myint also explained on the preparations for the Hindu communities in Northern Rakhine State.

On 29 July 2019, Myanmar delegation and ASEAN ERAT Team met with Mr Kamrul Ahsan, Acting Foreign Secretary and Bangladesh delegation at the Meghna Guest House, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka. Bangladesh delegation comprised of Mr Mahub Uz Zaman, Secretary for Asia and Pacific, Mr Md Delwar Hossain, Director-General of South Asia region, and Mr Manjural Karim Khan Chowdhury, Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Permanent Secretary

briefed the meeting on the discussion with the representatives of the displaced persons at the Camp No 4, Cox's Bazar on 27 and 28 July 2019 as well as meetings with the representatives from the United Nations Agencies based in Cox's Bazar and representatives from Hindu and Christian communities. Furthermore, Permanent Secretary reminded the need to follow the bilateral arrangement on repatriation between the two countries, and highlighted on the preparations made by Myanmar Government and the readiness to receive the verified displaced persons.

Mr Arnel Capili, Deputy Executive Director, AHA Centre and Mr Ky-Anh Nguyen, Director, Socio-Cultural Community Department, ASEAN Secretariat also explained on the mandate given by the ASEAN Leaders and the terms of reference of the ASEAN ERAT Team to conduct the Preliminary Needs Assessment in Northern Rakhine State in March 2019, and the Comprehensive Needs Assessment to be conducted by ASEAN ERAT Team, and the ASEAN's continued support to the repatriation process.

At the end of the meeting, Acting Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh handed over the verification forms of 25,047 people to Myanmar delegation. Myanmar delegation requested the immediate delivery of colour photographs that is necessary for the systematic and effective verification.

To fulfill the bilateral agreement signed on 23 November 2017, the Myanmar side had put in place the necessary logistic and other facilities to be able to receive the verified returnees since 23 January 2018.

High-level Myanmar delegation led by Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs arrived back to Myanmar on 30 July 2019.—MNA ■

Annex 431

United News of Bangladesh, “Rohingyas discouraged to return despite Bangladesh, Myanmar’s readiness: FM”, 20 August 2019

Available at:

<https://unb.com.bd/category/bangladesh/rohingyas-discouraged-to-return-despite-bangladesh-myanmars-readiness-fm/26387>

Annex 431

4/23/23, 10:06 AM

Rohingyas discouraged to return despite Bangladesh, Myanmar's readiness: FM

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Annex 431

4/23/23, 10:06 AM

Rohingyas discouraged to return despite Bangladesh, Myanmar's readiness: FM



Dhaka, Aug 20 (UNB) Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdu Momen on Tuesday said both Bangladesh and Myanmar are fully ready to resume the repatriation of Rohingyas to their home and but some Rohingya leaders and NGOs are reportedly discouraging them to return.

"We've heard some Rohingya leaders emerged there. They don't want the return of any Rohingya (to their homeland). They're trying to stop returnees. Some INGOs and NGOs are instigating them (Rohingyas)," he told a small group of reporters at his office in the afternoon.

He said Bangladesh wants to see Rohingyas' return to Rakhine State as soon as possible. The two countries are trying to resume the repatriation in a small scale from Thursday.

"We want the safe and secure return of the Rohingya and free mobility in their own region. Myanmar has agreed on that," Dr Momen said adding that many Rohingyas are willing to go back.

The Foreign Minister mentioned that Rohingyas are looking for mainly citizenship and they, as per their demand, will not go until the citizenship is given.

"Myanmar is saying it's a process," Dr Momen said adding that Rohingyas will get cards after their return and then they have a process of getting citizenship.

On July 29, Bangladesh handed a fresh list of 25,000 Rohingyas from around 6,000 families to Myanmar for verification before their repatriation to Rakhine State. [⋈]

Annex 431

4/23/23, 10:06 AM

Rohingyas discouraged to return despite Bangladesh, Myanmar's readiness: FM

With the latest list, Bangladesh has so far handed the names of around 55,000 Rohingyas to the Myanmar authorities and around 8,000 of them have been verified.

Dr Momen said Myanmar only cleared 3,450 Rohingyas for beginning repatriation. "We want them to go back as soon as possible."

He said peace in the region will be hampered if their stay becomes longer in Bangladesh. Peace in the region depends on peaceful resolution of Rohingya problem, Dr Momen added.

Responding to a question, Dr Momen said China is very much involved in it and is helping Bangladesh convince Myanmar to take back their nationals.

Earlier in the day, he discussed the Rohingya repatriation issue with visiting Indian External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar at a bilateral meeting.

On Rohingya issue, Jaishankar said they agreed that the "safe, speedy and sustainable" return of Rohingyas to their place of origin in Rakhine is in the national interest of the three countries -- Bangladesh, Myanmar and India.

"We reaffirmed our readiness to provide more assistance for the displaced persons in Bangladesh and to improve socioeconomic condition in Rakhine State," he said.

The Indian minister appreciated the humanitarian gesture of Bangladesh in supporting a large number of displaced people from Rakhine and assured India's continued support for their safe, speedy and sustainable return to Myanmar.

Bangladesh is now hosting over 1.1 million Rohingyas and most of them entered the country since August 25, 2017. Bangladesh and Myanmar signed the repatriation deal on November 23, 2017.

On January 16, 2018 Bangladesh and Myanmar inked a document on "Physical Arrangement", which was supposed to facilitate the return of Rohingyas to their homeland.

The "Physical Arrangement" stipulates that the repatriation will be completed preferably within two years from the start.

The first batch of Rohingyas was scheduled to return on November 15 last year but it was halted amid unwillingness of Rohingyas to go back for lack of a congenial environment in Rakhine.

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Bangladesh not to force Rohingyas for repatriation: FM

United News of Bangladesh . Dhaka ([https://www.newagebd.net/credit/United News of Bangladesh . Dhaka](https://www.newagebd.net/credit/United%20News%20of%20Bangladesh%20.%20Dhaka)) | Published: 19:34, Aug 22,2019 | Updated: 17:45, Aug 24,2019

(<https://www.newagebd.net/print/article/82202>)

Foreign minister AK Abdul Momen. -- UNB file photo

Foreign minister AK Abdul Momen on Thursday said Bangladesh did not want to do anything by force and laid emphasis on removing trust-deficit among Rohingyas who refused to return to their homeland.

'It's regrettable... what else you can do!' the foreign minister said while talking to a small group of reporters at his office.

Annex 432

3/29/23, 5:21 PM

Bangladesh not to force Rohingyas for repatriation: FM

(https://nagad.com.bd/bn/campaign/?offer=eid-payment-23&utm_source=newage&utm_medium=gif&utm_campaign=eid-payment23&utm_content=lp-payment-230323)

Momen said there was a trust-deficit among Rohingyas and reiterated Bangladesh's call to take 100 'majhis' or Rohingya leaders to Rakhine State, and show them what measures and arrangements were taken to welcome Rohingyas to their own homes as they feared about their safety and security.

Responding to a question about Rohingyas' demands, the foreign minister said they could not be hostage to their demands. 'They (Rohingya) need to realise their demands by going back to their homes.'

Momen said they were hoping that the repatriation would begin Thursday, at least on a small scale, but it's yet to begin.

'We're still waiting with a high hope. Myanmar has created the problem and solution lies there, too. We don't want to do anything by force,' he said adding that representatives of Myanmar, China and Bangladesh governments were present there.

Responding to another question, Momen said they would identify those distributing leaflets, supplying English-written signboards and carrying out campaigns encouraging Rohingyas not to return to Myanmar. 'We're identifying them,' he said adding that steps would be taken.

Despite all the preparations, no Rohingya turned up on Thursday to avail of the 'voluntary' repatriation offer given to them to go back to their place of origin in Rakhine State of Myanmar prompting the authorities to suspend the repatriation process for the day.

While briefing reporters, refugee relief and repatriation commissioner Mohammad Abul Kalam said they interviewed the listed Rohingyas over the last couple of days and encouraged them to return to their homeland.

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Bangladesh not to force Rohingyas for repatriation: FM

But nobody did show up at Ghumdhum transit point on Thursday, he said adding that five buses were kept ready to take the Rohingyas to Myanmar's Rakhine State, their place of origin.

Bangladesh is now hosting over 1.1 million Rohingyas and most of them entered the country since August 25, 2017. The two countries signed a repatriation deal on November 23, 2017, but there had been little progress.

On July 29, Bangladesh handed a fresh list of 25,000 Rohingyas from around 6,000 families to Myanmar for verification before their repatriation to Rakhine State.

With the latest list, Bangladesh has so far handed the names of around 55,000 Rohingyas to the Myanmar authorities and around 8,000 of them have been verified. Myanmar only cleared 3,450 Rohingyas for beginning the repatriation.

On January 16, 2018 Bangladesh and Myanmar inked a document on 'Physical Arrangement', which was supposed to facilitate the return of Rohingyas to their homeland.

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The first batch of Rohingyas was scheduled to return on November 15 last year but it was halted amid the unwillingness of Rohingyas to go back for lack of a congenial environment in Rakhine.

On August 20, foreign minister AK Abdul Momen said both Bangladesh and Myanmar were 'fully ready' to resume the repatriation of Rohingyas to their homeland but some Rohingya leaders and NGOs were reportedly discouraging them to return.

'We've heard some Rohingya leaders emerged there. They don't want the return of any Rohingya (to their homeland). They're trying to stop returnees. Some INGOs and NGOs are instigating them (Rohingyas),' he told a small group of reporters at his office.

He said Bangladesh wanted to see Rohingyas' return to Rakhine State as soon as possible.

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Annex 433

Burma News International (BNI), “No one will return back until demands are met: Refugees”, 23 August 2019

Available at:

<https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/no-one-will-return-back-until-demands-are-met-refugees>



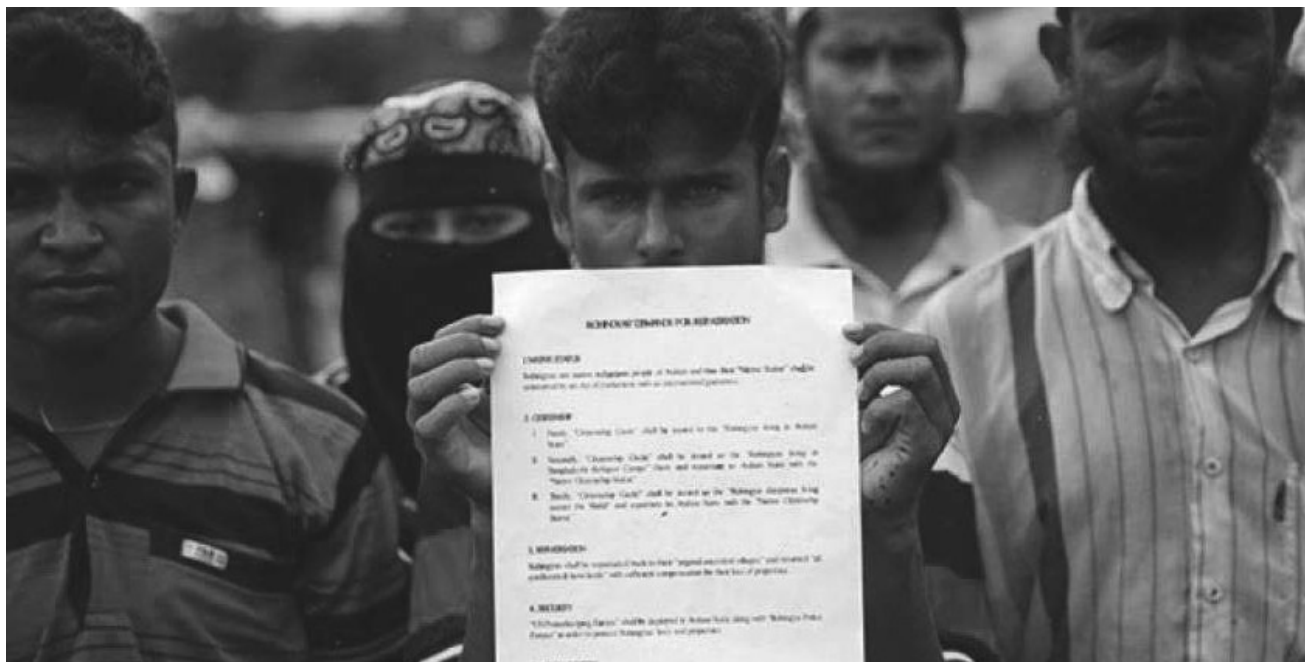
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Published

Friday, August 23, 2019

No one will return back until demands are met: Refugees



Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh told UNHCR they would not go back to Burma until their demands were met, when officials distributed leaflets about repatriation door-to-door in Camps 26 and 27 near Teknaf, Cox’s Bazar, on August 21, 2019.

A Rohingya woman with her baby standing outside the office of camp-in-charge of camp no 26 shalbon, teknaf after appearing for an interview with UNHCR and RRRC

<https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/no-one-will-return-back-until-demands-are-met-refugees>[29/03/2023 17:18:09]

Annex 433

No one will return back until demands are met: Refugees | Burma News International

The UN Refugee Agency has been interviewing the 3,450 Rohingyas cleared for return by the Burmese government since August 20. The engagement, officially called an intention survey, is a key part of the voluntary return of the refugees.

The survey conducted by the UNHCR began at 9:00 am at Camp 26 (Shalbagan). Bangladesh Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission (RRRC) officials were also present during the sessions. Workers from both the organizations, however, refused to say the number of Rohingyas who appeared for the survey, which continued till 5:00 pm.

“Interviews of the Rohingyas will continue. After completing the interviews of all 1,037 enlisted Rohingya families at Shalbagan camp, we will be able to confirm if they are willing to go back,” said Mohamed Abul Kalam, RRRC Commissioner.



But the attempt at repatriation failed to kick off when no Rohingya turned up today (August 22, 2019) for repatriation from Bangladesh to Burma. Mohamed Abul Kalam announced

<https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/no-one-will-return-back-until-demands-are-met-refugees>[29/03/2023 17:18:09]

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No one will return back until demands are met: Refugees | Burma News International

this at a press briefing held at Shalbagan at 4 pm today. An official from the Burmese Embassy and two officials from the Chinese Embassy were also present at the briefing.

Commissioner of Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission (RRRC) Mohammad Abul Kalam along with other officials during a press briefing held at Shalbagan in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar

Even after authorities told the Rohingyas that Burma was ready to accept them as its nationals, many of the refugees interviewed on Wednesday said they would not go back to their homeland until the government guaranteed meeting their five demands, including citizenship.

The Rohingyas' demands are: to hold accountable those who killed and tortured the Rohingyas and drove them out of their land; to ensure citizenship and security of the Rohingyas in Burma; to give back their land and property; and to protect all fundamental rights of the Rohingyas in Myanmar's Rakhine State.

Rohingya at the Nayapara refugee camp in Cox's Bazar hold a list of their repatriation demands

Badlul Islam, a Rohingya camp leader, said the leaflet mainly focused on providing national verification cards (NVC). "But the Rohingyas are still scared due to the bitter past when they were driven away in the name of being provided the NVC," said Islam.

Mohammed Riaz, one of the session attendees, said the UNHCR officials told him nothing new, adding that he would not return to Burma if their demands were not met.

Rashid Amin, who also attended the session, told the reporters that the whole exercise was "nothing but an eyewash." He said discussion of their voluntary return should have been carried out with Burmese officials.

Detailing the content of the leaflets, Noor Bashar, a resident of the camp, said they said they would have to get the NVC first upon their return to Burma.

<https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/no-one-will-return-back-until-demands-are-met-refugees>[29/03/2023 17:18:09]

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No one will return back until demands are met: Refugees | Burma News International

After that, they would be kept in Ngakhura camp in Maungdaw, from where they would be shifted to another camp in the country for six months.



Another leader, Nosima, from Camp 26, said Rohingya women had been raped and killed. “We need security. Without security we will never go back.”

“We need a real guarantee of citizenship, security and promise of returning to our original ancestral lands. We must talk to the Burmese government about this before repatriation,” said Md Islam from Camp 27.

Overview of the Refugee camp

Sources said many listed Rohingya families have also been moving around camps to avoid being called for the interviews. They have apparently been staying with their relatives for days, hiding away from the authorities.

Similarly, in Camp 26, Rohingya refugees had run away when Bangladesh and UN officials came to the camp early in the morning today, said a refugee from the camp.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said both Bangladesh and Myanmar

<https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/no-one-will-return-back-until-demands-are-met-refugees>[29/03/2023 17:18:09]

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No one will return back until demands are met: Refugees | Burma News International

were ready to resume the repatriation of Rohingyas to their homeland, but some Rohingya leaders and NGOs were discouraging the refugees from returning, reported United News of Bangladesh on August 21, 2019.

“We’ve heard some Rohingya leaders have emerged there. They don’t want the return of any Rohingya [to their homeland]. They’re trying to stop the returnees. Some INGOs [international non-governmental organizations] and NGOs are instigating them [Rohingyas],” Foreign Minister Abdul Momen told a small group of reporters at his office in the afternoon.

“The international community keep saying that there must be safe, voluntary and dignified return, but are doing nothing to pressure Aung San Suu Kyi to make that a reality,” said Tun Khin, President of Burmese Rohingya Organisation UK. “Safe voluntary and dignified return means full citizenship, an end to discrimination, and justice and accountability, such as referring Burma to the International Criminal Court.”

The Myanmar and Bangladesh governments should suspend plans to repatriate Rohingya refugees until returns are safe, voluntary, and dignified, according to a Human Rights Watch press release dated August 21, 2019.

Today, conditions for return are even worse. Fighting with the Arakan Army continues to escalate in Rakhine State. Nor has there been a sign that Burma accepts its accountability for mass atrocities. UN agencies have not been granted access to Northern Rakhine State, where displaced communities struggle to survive in the forests without access to medical or food programs.

The most important condition of all, the restoration of citizenship, has not been met. This is not a repatriation plan; this is a death sentence, according to Burma Task Force, USA.

Empty seats of a bus parked in Cox’s Bazar for repatriation of Rohingya refugees from

<https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/no-one-will-return-back-until-demands-are-met-refugees>[29/03/2023 17:18:09]

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No one will return back until demands are met: Refugees | Burma News International

Bangladesh to Burma

Bangladesh authorities have set up two transit camps — one on the banks of the Naf river near Keruntali of Nayapara in Teknaf and the other near the Ghumdhum border area of Naikkhangchhari in Bandarban.

Under immense international pressure, Burma had signed an agreement with Bangladesh in January 2018 to take back the Rohingyas.

<https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/no-one-will-return-back-until-demands-are-met-refugees>[29/03/2023 17:18:09]

Annex 434

N. Conrad, S. Czimmek and A. Islam, “Rohingya militants active in Bangladeshi refugee camps”, *Deutsche Welle*, 24 September 2019

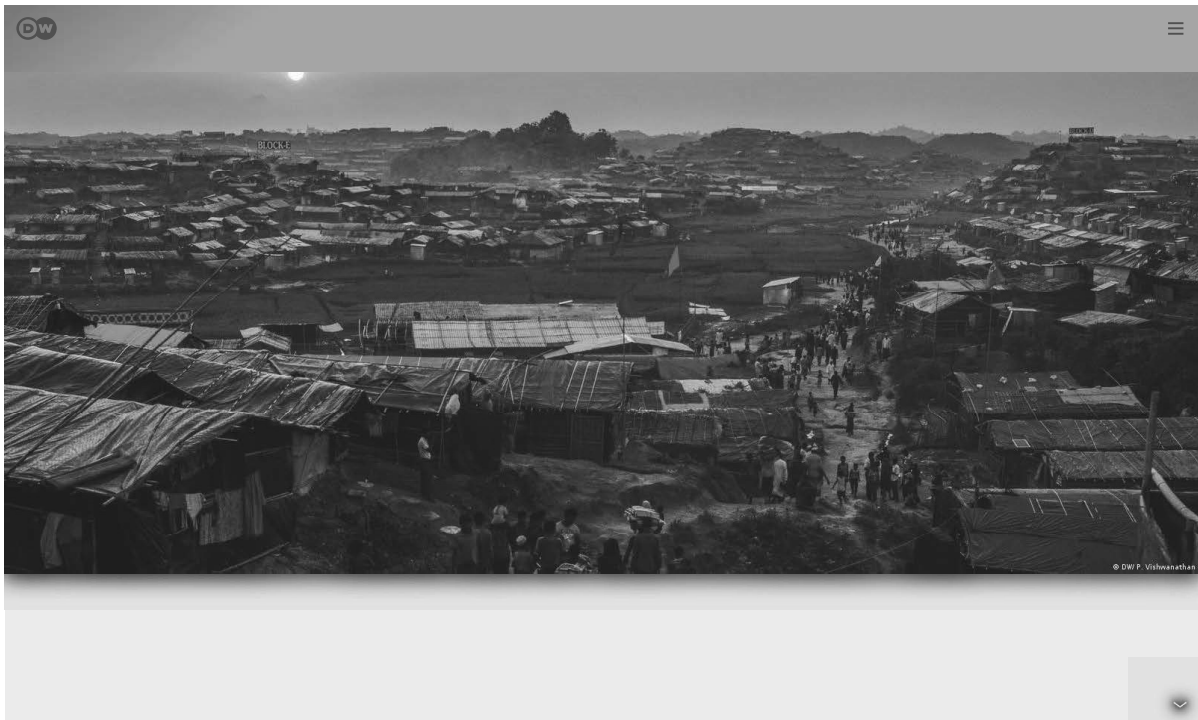
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Annex 434

3/29/23, 5:29 PM

Rohingya militants active in Bangladeshi refugee camps – DW – 09/24/2019



HUMAN RIGHTS

Rohingya militants active in Bangladeshi refugee camps

Naomi Conrad | Stefan Czimmek | Arafatul Islam
09/24/2019

In 2017, a Rohingya militant group attacked several police posts in Myanmar. As the army responded with brutal force, thousands of Rohingya fled to Bangladesh. Today, the militants threaten those who dare to defy them.



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■ Mi itants in Rohingya camps?

As night fell, the alleyways meandering through [the world's largest refugee camp](#) were almost deserted. Two men clutching torches, their light flickering on the wet and muddy ground, scurried through the rain and disappeared into the shadows. A dog barked in the distance, while music and muffled voices drifted from one of the countless tiny huts made of corrugated iron, bamboo and tarpaulin.

Young men sheltered in doorways, staring out into the shadows. They were Rohingya watchmen on the lookout for criminal gangs. For at night, when a government-imposed curfew sends the many aid workers back to their hotels and lodgings, security is tense. DW has heard tales of murders, abduction and rape.

<https://www.dw.com/en/rohingya-militants-active-in-bangladeshi-refugee-camps/a-50490888#:~:text=In 2017%2C a Rohingya militant,who dare to defy them>

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3/29/23, 5:29 PM

Rohingya militants active in Bangladeshi refugee camps – DW – 09/24/2019



Rohingya militants active in Bangladeshi refugee camps



Murder in the Rohingya camps

One evening in late August, a local source took DW to meet a woman whose husband was killed nearby. As the source stood guard outside her hut, the woman clutched a young child, while another stared at his mother from behind the curtain that divided the tiny space into two minuscule rooms. One single plastic toy lay on the bed, a single thin mattress that took up half of the room.

As the rain drummed on the roof, she whispered so her neighbors wouldn't hear the hurried conversation. Her husband, she said, had worked for the good of the Rohingya. "He wanted to stop misconduct in the camps."

DW knows the identity of both the woman and her husband. But because she fears she is being watched, DW has chosen not to reveal his name or position within the camp. But one thing is clear: His actions seem to have angered a powerful group operating with near-impunity.



Militants in Rohingya camps?

ARSA active in the camps

Those who killed him, she said, belonged to Harakah al-Yaqin — the former name of a group of Rohingya militants, which in 2016 renamed themselves ARSA, or Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army. Led by a small cadre of Rohingya emigres from Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, the group wants self-governance for the Rohingya, an impoverished Muslim minority that has long been denied full citizenship in Buddhist-majority Myanmar. Most Rohingya live in Rakhine, the poorest state in an impoverished country, and need special permits to travel and marry.

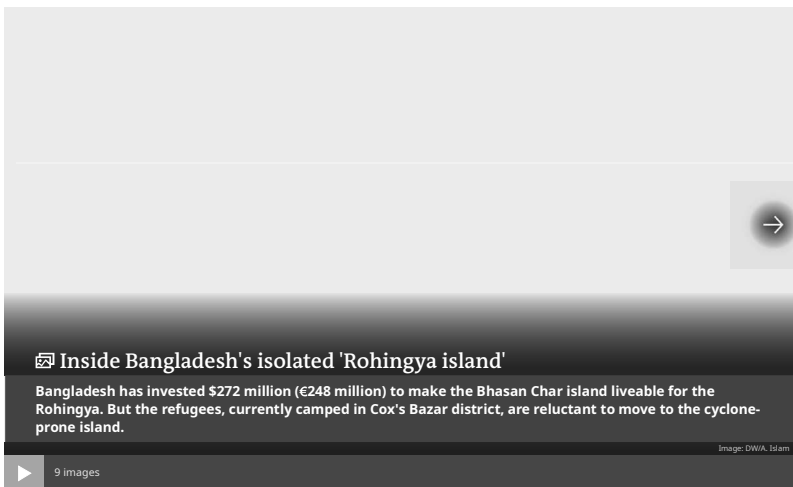
Read more: [Myanmar military top brass involved in Rohingya atrocities, says Amnesty International](#)

ARSA made international headlines when it launched a coordinated attack on 30 border guard police posts and an army base in Rakhine state in Myanmar in August 2017, killing 12 members of the security forces according to government officials. This followed previous attacks on police posts in late 2016. The attacks marked a major escalation in a simmering conflict and triggered a large-scale and violent army offensive.

The Tatmadaw, as the army is called, responded with a scorched earth tactic, burning and bombing villages. In September 2017, the UN human rights chief labelled the crackdown a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing." More than 730,000 Rohingya fled the country to neighboring Bangladesh, crossing the Naf border river that separates Myanmar and Bangladesh in boats, floats and on foot.

Bangladesh welcomed the refugees, settling them in crowded, makeshift camps that the authorities built close to the border. Together, they make up the world's largest refugee camp. Among the refugees were members of the group whose actions had escalated the deadly violence in the first place: ARSA militants.

Read more: ['I left my body there': A displaced Rohingya woman's story](#)



Inside Bangladesh's isolated 'Rohingya island'

Bangladesh has invested \$272 million (€248 million) to make the Bhasan Char island liveable for the Rohingya. But the refugees, currently camped in Cox's Bazar district, are reluctant to move to the cyclone-prone island.

Image: DW/Alam

▶ 9 images

Women and informants threatened

<https://www.dw.com/en/rohingya-militants-active-in-bangladeshi-refugee-camps/a-50490888#:~:text=In 2017%2C a Rohingya militant,who dare to defy them>

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3/29/23, 5:29 PM

Rohingya militants active in Bangladeshi refugee camps – DW – 09/24/2019



Rohingya militants active in Bangladeshi refugee camps



One foreign aid worker told DW that several women who were working for aid agencies had been threatened. Many were so scared, he said, that they had chosen to give up their source of minimal income, rather than risk the group's wrath. Others told DW that women who were deemed not to be dressed modestly enough had been targeted.

It is likely that many groups are active in the camps and that, while some of them may have chosen to take on the label of the militant group, some may just be opportunistic criminals. And the camps are located along a route used for the international drug trade of yaba, as methamphetamine is known locally. Criminal gangs operate in the area and shootouts with the police are a common occurrence.

Read more: Bangladesh may 'force' 100,000 Rohingya to resettle on uninhabited island

The government of Bangladesh, for one, claims that there is no ARSA presence in the camps. In the capital, Dhaka, Bangladesh's foreign minister Abul Kalam Abdul Momen was adamant: "There is no ARSA in Bangladesh. There is in Myanmar, not here. If there is any, we will pick him up, or her up, and we will send that individual to Myanmar."

But in the camps, ARSA is a name that quickly ends conversations, leading to monosyllabic, nervous answers. The group allegedly has informers in every camp, including children. It is a claim DW was unable to verify, but even the fear of an all-pervasive network of informers is enough to silence many. It is thus impossible to gauge the group's level of support.

ARSA militant: 'We're here to help you take control of your land'

After weeks of trying, a contact managed to arrange a meeting with a man who claimed to be a member of ARSA. DW could not independently verify the man's identity and story, but his account does match with other accounts of the group's recruitment, training and actions in the camps.

DW met him — a tall, physically fit man in his mid-thirties — in a secluded spot outside of the camps. Throughout the interview, he nervously scanned the surroundings, clutching his mobile phone in one hand, while twisting blades of grass with the other.

The man said he took the oath to join ARSA in 2017, shortly before the attacks that triggered the army crackdown and mass exodus. Several men came to his village, he said, and asked the men if they wanted freedom: "They said: 'You don't have any rights in your own country. We are here to help you to take control of your land. If you agree with us, come and join us.'"



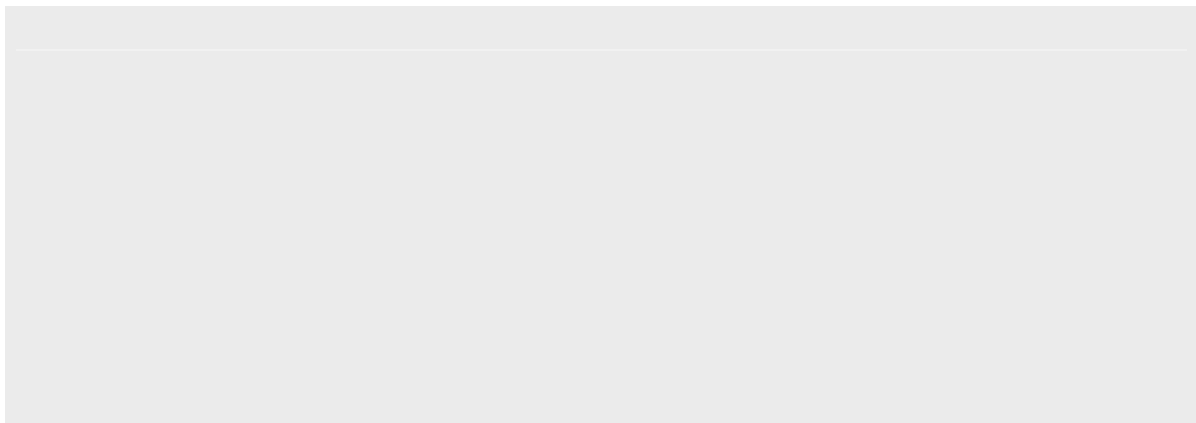
■ Rohingya prostitutes in Bangladesh

ARSA leadership trained by Pakistani Taliban?

The individuals who recruited the villagers, the man confirmed to DW, were ethnic Rohingya men from Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. He said he received basic military training, including how to use rifles and plant roadside bombs.

Like him, several hundred villagers joined the group starting in 2014, according to an account by the International Crisis Group (ICG), an international nongovernmental organization.

According to the ICG, ARSA was founded by a small cadre of Rohingya based in Saudi Arabia. The leader is reportedly Ata Ullah, a Rohingya who was born in Pakistan to refugee parents, but whose family moved to Saudi Arabia when he was still young. There, he was reportedly educated in a madrasa, an Islamic school.



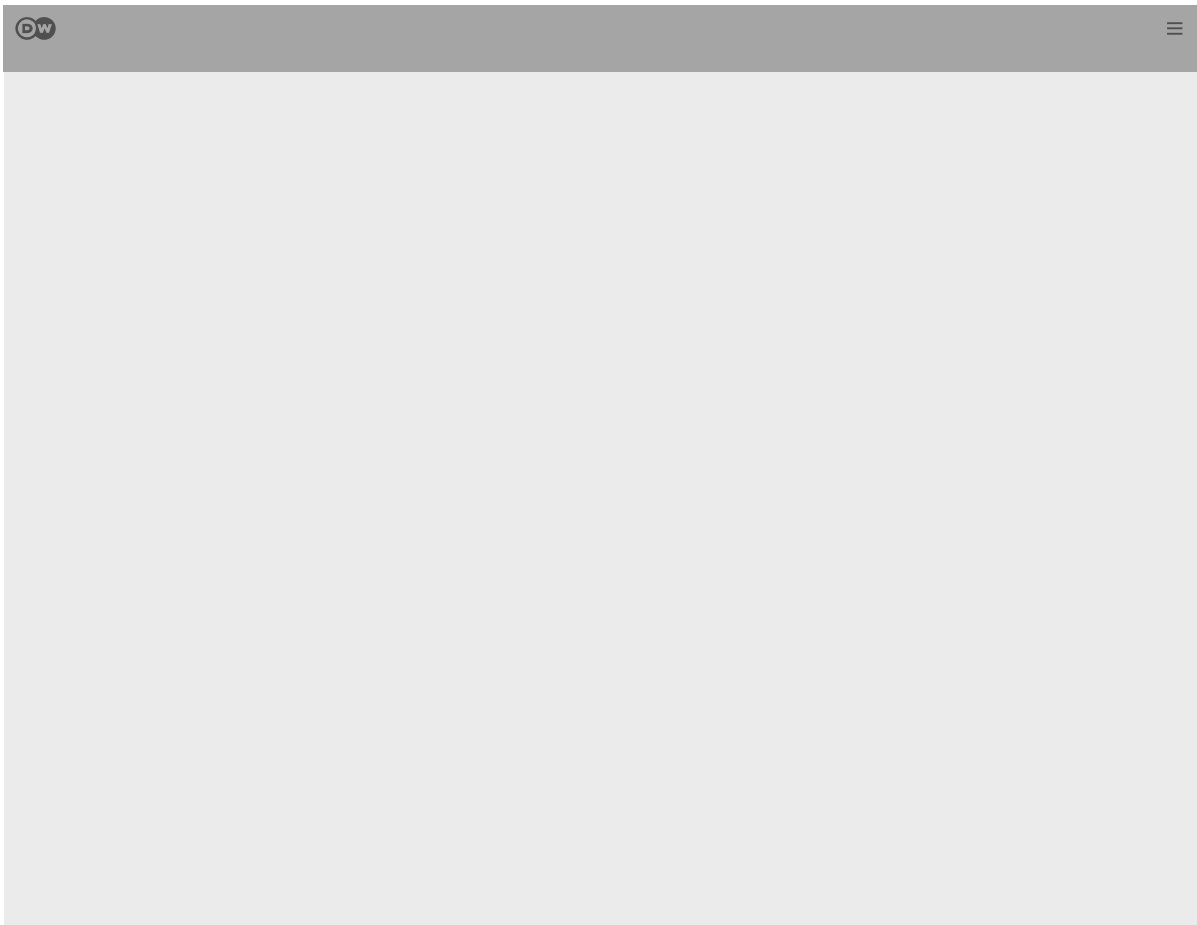
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3/29/23, 5:29 PM

Rohingya militants active in Bangladeshi refugee camps – DW – 09/24/2019



Women who are not dressed "modestly enough" risk the group's wrath

Image: picture-alliance/AP Photo/M. Hossain Opu

Up to 3500 fighters in the camps?

The man told DW that ARSA killed those they deemed to be informants and sometimes kidnapped people for ransom. But he said he disagreed strongly with the murders in the camp. "If we cause trouble and kill people here, the government of Bangladesh will also start killing us."

Rather, he said, ARSA should concentrate on its fight in Myanmar. He told DW that some 3,500 fighters were sheltering in the refugee camps — and that groups of several hundred fighters secretly crossed to neighboring Myanmar for military training. But, he conceded, there was little scope for any large-scale attacks, given that the group lacked weapons and ammunition. "Nobody gives us support," he said.


"If we get enough support and ammunition, we can kill the army over there," he said, referring to the Tatmadaw. But for now, he conceded, that was wishful thinking.

Suddenly, his small mobile phone began to ring. He became agitated, struggling to remove the battery from his phone. Someone, he said, might have seen him — and "now I am getting a call."

Then, he started to cry. He stared at the phone and battery in his hand. Finally, he looked up: "Don't publish my picture, otherwise, they will kill me, too."

DW's Abdul Sattar contributed to this report.

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Annex 435

Benar News, “Bangladesh: Rohingya Mock Aung San Suu Kyi’s Rejection of Genocide Claims”, *Radio Free Asia*, 12 November 2019

Available at:

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/aungsansuukyi-rohingya-12112019164034.html>

Bangladesh: Rohingya Mock Aung San Suu Kyi's Rejection of Genocide Claims

2019.12.11



Rohingya refugees chant, "Lies! Lies!" while watching a local TV station's coverage of Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi's statements at the International Court of Justice, in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, Dec. 11, 2019.

Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh recounted atrocities by Naypyidaw's military as they debunked denials by Myanmar civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi on Wednesday at the U.N.'s top court that her government's security forces had committed genocide against the minority Muslims.

Suu Kyi told the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague that the charges of genocide leveled by the tiny West African nation of Gambia against Myanmar provided a "misleading and incomplete" representation of events that led to an exodus of about 740,000 Rohingya into neighboring Bangladesh two years ago.

"Regrettably, Gambia has placed before the court a misleading and incomplete picture of the situation in Rakhine state," Suu Kyi, who was once celebrated worldwide as a champion for human rights, told the court. She underscored that

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/aungsansuukyi-rohingya-12112019164034.html>

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3/27/23, 6:57 PM

Bangladesh: Rohingya Mock Aung San Suu Kyi's Rejection of Genocide Claims — Radio Free Asia

her government was confronting an “internal armed conflict” in 2017 when the Myanmar military launched a counter-offensive against local insurgents.

Suu Kyi's statement that “some” people crossed into Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh in fear infuriated dozens of Rohingya refugees who watched the Myanmar leader make her case live on TV from a tea stall at the Kutupalong refugee camp.

“We reject her statement that we crossed into Bangladesh in fear. She tells the lies to appease the military and Moghs,” Abdul Karim, a Rohingya in his 60s, told BenarNews, an RFA-affiliated online news service, after watching the TV coverage, using a derogatory term that refers to Rakhine Buddhists.

“The military killed my brother and his wife in late Aug 2017. They were shot at from behind when we headed toward the Bangladesh border. They [Myanmar soldiers] shouted ‘go, go’ while firing at us,” said Karim who hailed from Maungdaw town in Rakhine state.

Rohingya React to Aung San Suu Kyi's Genocide Claims | Radio Free Asia (RFA)



On the second day of the proceedings at the ICJ trial against Myanmar, Suu Kyi rejected Gambia's allegation that her country's military operations on August 2017 were mounted to exterminate the Rohingya Muslims. Instead, she said, the crackdown was targeted at the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), an insurgent group.

But in Cox's Bazar, refugees at the Kutupalong camp shouted “Lies! Lies!” as Suu Kyi spoke.

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/aungsansuukyi-rohingya-12112019164034.html>

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Sometaya R., “Refugees from Myanmar cite attacks from their ‘protectors’”,
Asahi Shimbun, 21 January 2020

Available at:

<https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/13037844>

The Asahi Shimbun | Asia & Japan Watch

Refugees from Myanmar cite attacks from their 'protectors'

By RYUTA SEOMETAYA/ Correspondent

January 21, 2020 at 12:00 JST



Refugees at this camp for Hindus say they have been threatened by Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) fighters in Cox's Bazar in southeastern Bangladesh. (Ryuta Sometaya)



COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh--Rumors of intimidation, violence and murder flowed from a sprawling, squalid camp here for hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims who fled from neighboring Myanmar.

But finding Rohingya refugees willing to talk about these incidents proved a daunting task. They were living in fear of reprisals by the alleged perpetrators of the attacks: the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), the self-proclaimed protector of the Rohingya refugees.

I first heard about the assaults in August 2019 in Rakhine state in the western part of Myanmar, a hotbed of sectarian conflict between Rohingya Muslims and Buddhists.

Ichiro Maruyama, the Japanese ambassador to Myanmar, visited the area that month on behalf of the Myanmar government to hold hearings with refugees who had returned from Bangladesh.

The Myanmar government's crackdown on Rohingya Muslims created an international humanitarian crisis. An estimated 700,000 refugees fled the country after August 2017.

In November 2017, Myanmar and Bangladesh announced they would start repatriating refugees in stages on an "official route."

However, no one has taken this official route.

Instead, several hundred refugees returned through "unofficial routes."

Many of the returning refugees told me that they believed Myanmar was still a dangerous place for them.

When I asked them why they decided to return to an unsafe country, they mentioned the attacks by ARSA fighters in the refugee camp. They also said ARSA members have threatened anyone who wanted to return to Myanmar.

Returning home, especially through the official route, would indicate an acceptance of the Myanmar government's measures. And this could weaken ARSA's clout in its battle against the

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government.

ARSA is an armed organization formed by Rohingya refugees. The group's attack against a police facility in Rakhine state in August 2017 triggered the crackdown that led to the Rohingya exodus.

ARSA on Twitter and other media has declared: "We protect Rohingya who are the most persecuted in the world." Many Rohingyas support the group.

To find out if ARSA was actually attacking the same people it had vowed to protect, I visited the refugee camp in suburban Cox's Bazar in southeastern Bangladesh in December.

The camp was crammed with temporary housing made of bamboo and sheets provided by the United Nations. Raw sewage flowed in spaces between the homes, emitting a foul stench.

Sunlight poking through gaps between the sheets was the refugees' only source of light.

RELUCTANT TO SPEAK ABOUT ARSA

The Rohingyas there repeatedly said: "ARSA have fought for us."
But when asked about any troubles in the camp, they lowered their heads and remained silent.

Ninety percent of the refugees at the camp are Rohingya Muslims. Some Hindus also fled to the camp from Rakhine state amid the confusion of the Myanmar military crackdown.

The Hindus were the first ones willing to speak to me about ARSA-related problems.

Shuvash, 62, said that he and 10 other Hindu refugees were summoned to a meeting with ARSA members at the temporary home of a group member about a year ago.

The Hindu refugees demanded that ARSA return the money that they had loaned the group.

The ARSA fighters then took the 11 Hindu refugees to separate locations and assaulted them, Shuvash said. Only nine of them returned.

"The other two are probably no longer alive," he said.

Another Hindu refugee, 41, said that around November 2018, when he was working outside the camp, he was taken to a forest by men who called themselves ARSA members.

They ordered him to read from a script in front of a video camera. When he refused, they beat him.

So he followed their orders, saying, "We Hindus are also angry about the measures taken by the Myanmar government."

A few days later, the video spread through Facebook.

"They probably wanted to show that not only Rohingya but also Hindu refugees are angry about the Myanmar government," the man said.

Younus, a 40-year-old who has pulled Hindu refugees together in the camp, said he was threatened by ARSA members after he expressed a desire to return to Myanmar at a meeting of representatives of camp refugees.

"You should not step out of line with us," he quoted ARSA members as telling him. "We won't allow you to selfishly return."

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Younus also said they told him not to attend any more meetings at the camp.

“Everybody is scared of being assaulted,” he said.

HINDUS NOT THE ONLY VICTIMS

Syed Alim, 28, a Bangladeshi reporter who helped me in my work, said Hindus are not the only targets of ARSA.

“ARSA has been involved in various crimes,” he said. “Many of the victims are Rohingyas.”

With my seven-day visa in Bangladesh nearing its expiration date, I was able to contact a Rohingya refugee who said her husband was killed by ARSA.

She was worried about speaking with a foreign reporter, so I let a Bangladeshi interpreter talk to her first.

Arif Tasmin, 30, then granted me the interview.

“My husband was repeatedly asked by ARSA to join the group, but he refused,” Tasmin said.

In July 2018, her husband, Urah, 35, was stabbed in the chest and other body parts and died on a street outside the camp, she said.

Tasmin said the crime was committed in public, and three suspects were immediately arrested. But she said she was never informed about the motive for the attack or whether the assailants were connected to ARSA.

Tasmin, citing a warning for her husband to be careful a few days before the fatal assault, said she has no doubts on who was responsible for his death.

“It was definitely ARSA,” she said.

However, she did say, “To be honest, I didn’t want to talk about it now that Myanmar has been sued at the International Court of Justice.”

In November 2019, Gambia filed a lawsuit against the Myanmar government at the ICJ, the United Nations’ highest court, accusing it of committing genocide against the Rohingyas.

In December, Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar’s top political leader, defended her country against the charges at the court.

Tasmin said she was worried that telling her story could influence the court’s ruling if people around the world knew there are bad people among the Rohingya Muslims.

When I tried to ask her some in-depth questions, Tasmin’s relatives stopped her from speaking further, saying: “Don’t say anything else.”

According to Syed Alim, the Bangladeshi reporter, more than 40 people have been killed at the camp within a year. Although ARSA is believed to be behind many of the incidents, refugees won’t discuss the details even to local reporters.

When I thought I had to wrap up my interviews, I made contact with a 25-year-old Rohingya man who agreed to be interviewed by phone.

LAWLESS CAMP

<https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/13037844>

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The man said he was taken to an unknown location by seven or eight masked men in October 2019.

“We heard that you want to return to Myanmar,” they said, before punching him twice in the face.

He said he had told his family and friends that he wanted to return, and that information must have somehow found its way to ARSA.

He said they issued a further threat: “If you say you want to return, we will keep observing you forever. No one can protect you if you step out from the camp.”

The man said he no longer uses the word “return.”

He introduced me to a 67-year-old Rohingya refugee who told me about his near-experience with ARSA fighters.

A few months ago, he said, about 20 ARSA members arrived at his temporary home in the camp, but he was not there at the time.

“I had consulted with the United Nations because I knew that ARSA members have sold relief supplies given by the U.N.,” he said.

He said he believes that the ARSA members who visited his home planned to punish him.

He has since moved around among the temporary homes of acquaintances to avoid the fighters.

“Many people have noticed that ARSA members are doing strange things, but no one can say anything because we fear them,” he said. “If we opposed them, we would be ignored by our friends who have believed that ARSA is the group that is protecting Rohingyas.”

A Bangladesh staff member of international medical aid organization Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF) explained the reasons for ARSA’s aggressive tactics in the camp.

“A group of several hundred people in the camp identify themselves as ARSA. With prolonged living in the camp, young people who have lost hope for the future are inclined to join the group. There are no specific leaders, and they keep changing their alignments,” the staff member said.

ARSA is also involved in illegal drugs and prostitution, and its activities have been expanding for a year, the member said.

“At night, the camp becomes almost lawless after Bangladeshi police and NGO members leave. ARSA is apparently working under such conditions,” the member said.

According to a member of British charity group Christian Aid, more than a dozen Rohingya families confirmed that they wanted to return to Myanmar 48 hours before their scheduled departure from Bangladesh in November 2018.

But on the day of the return, no one showed any desire to leave Bangladesh. Some refugees mentioned “pressure from ARSA.”

“By delaying the return, ARSA might be trying to maintain its power of being a symbol of the Rohingya,” a member of an NGO said.

Through the interviews with the refugees, I felt that further postponements in repatriation will cause the threats by ARSA to spread at the camp.

(Ryuta Sometaya is chief of The Asahi Shimbun’s Yangon Bureau.)

<https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/13037844>

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CORRECTION

The original eighth paragraph that cited “several hundred thousand refugees” was corrected to “several hundred refugees” on Jan. 22.

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Annex 437

MNA, “Tatmadaw releases statement on ICOE’s Final Report”, *The Global New Light of Myanmar*, 23 January 2020

Available at:

<https://www.burmalibrary.org/sites/burmalibrary.org/files/obl/GNLM2020-01-23-red.pdf>

NATIONAL National Environmental Conservation & Climate Change Central Committee holds ninth coord meeting PAGE-2

NATIONAL Senior General meets Lao Air Force Chief in Nay Pyi Taw PAGE-6

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VI, No. 281, 14th Waning of Pyatho 1381 ME www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com Thursday, 23 January 2020

State Counsellor meets with locals in Leshi, Bamauk townships in Sagaing Region

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson of the Committee for Development of Rural Areas and National Races, held public meetings with the local people in Leshi of Naga Self-Administered Zone and Bamauk township in Sagaing Region yesterday.

The State Counsellor, accompanied by Union Ministers U Min Thu, U Ohn Win and Dr Myint Htwe; Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Thu and U Hla Maw Oo, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo and officials, left Homa-lin for Leshi by helicopters.

During a public meeting with the locals in Leshi Township, the State Counsellor said. "Although I arranged to visit here last year, the weather did not favour me to do so. This year I made it a point to be here so here I am. I want to meet with the local people. Every corner of the country has equal value for us," the State Counsellor said.

She added, "Difficulties of local people could be imagined from aerial view of the region. I want to see better living conditions of national people who are living in small houses on the mountain slopes for the livelihoods because it is important for the future of our country.

The value of a country can be determined on how much its people feel secure about their lives. Therefore, we want our children to attend



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for a documentary photo together with youths in Bamauk Township in Sagaing Region yesterday.

PHOTO: MNA

our meetings. Children should have political knowledge. They need to understand politics is concerned with all. No one can stand alone. Human beings are interdependent. So, we need to live in harmony with peacefully.

A weakness of our country is that total peace has not prevailed until now since it has regained independence. The entire country was not completely free from armed clashes. The

government is trying to stop the armed conflicts. Instability in any corner of the country has negative impacts on other areas of the country.

The situation of a country can be compared with a person. A pain on the pointing finger can be suffered although it is not a severe disease of the body.

Likewise, it is important to believe that every citizen has

their own value wherever they are living in any circumstances. Self-confidence is required to gain trust from others. Trust-building is emphasized in peace-making efforts.

However, those who lack self-confidence hardly trust others. Our citizens need to have capacity to develop self-confidence and to have normal relationship with others. Those who have no self-confidence,

but worry for themselves, never have good relationships with others. So, we must work together to get rid of worries. Children should not be left behind in this process.

Children have to learn how to associate with each other, in addition to learning lessons from the teachers, at schools. They have to follow classroom rules and disciplines.

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NATIONAL Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations receives Country Director of Head of Office, Myanmar, World Bank PAGE-6

NATIONAL Establishment of Credit Guarantee Corporation (CGC) and Financing for MSMEs Seminar held in Nay Pyi Taw PAGE-6

LOCAL NEWS Inwa locals switch to machines for producing alms bowls PAGE-11



Tatmadaw releases statement on ICOE's Final Report

THE Tatmadaw released a statement on the final report of the Independent Commission of Enquiry-ICOE on 21 January, according to the Tatmadaw True News Information Team.

The statement stated that the Tatmadaw (Myanmar Defence Services) launched operations to restore regional peace and stability in the aftermath of the ARSA's attacks on police outposts and station, and one military Battalion Headquarters in northern Rakhine State in 2016 and 2017. The Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) was established by the Office of the President to investigate the subsequent of those operations.

The Final Report of the Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) was released on 21 January 2020. A considerable number of Tatmadaw members have given statements in support of the evidence collection work of the ICOE.

Since late November 2019, several weeks prior to the release of the Final Report of the ICOE, the Court-Martial concerning the Gutarpyin incident has been convened at the local Regiment in Buthitdaung Township in Northern Rakhine. This trial has been taken place on the basis of the report of a Court of Inquiry.

The Tatmadaw will not only give full consideration to the recommendations relating to the armed forces in the report of the ICOE but the Office of the Judge Advocate General will study the report in detail as well. The Tatmadaw in carrying out its duty to defend the Sovereignty of the state and protect the life and property of the local people from terrorist attacks launched by ARSA and its collaborators did so spontaneously. The action was not premeditated. The court of inquiry will continue investigations regarding any wrongdoings by those within the chain of command. It is learnt that the Office of the Judge Advocate General will take action in conformity with military justice procedures if there is credible evidence of any commission of offence by members of the Tatmadaw, said the statement.—MNA

Update reports (22 January 2020) on pneumonia caused by 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Wuhan City of People's Republic of China

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports is accelerating its responses to the outbreak of pneumonia caused by 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Wuhan City of the People's Republic of China, with strictly monitoring the symptoms of fever and flu at the State/Regional Public Health departments, airports, jetties, border crossings, especially at the border gates close to China.
 2. According to the report of World Health Organization dated on 21 January 2020, a total of 278 patients were diagnosed with 2019-nCoV: 258 cases in Hubei Province, 14 from Guangdong Province, 5 from Beijing Municipality and 1 from Shanghai Municipality. Of the 278 confirmed cases, 51 cases are severely ill and 12 are in critical condition.
 3. The laboratory tests outside China up to 22 January 2020 have found 2 cases in Thailand, 1 in Japan, 1 in South Korea and 1 in the United States.
 4. Wuhan City reported 6 deaths up to 22 January 2020, and they were old and fragile persons with other chronic diseases.
 5. The WHO is holding a meeting of International Health Regulations (IHR) Emergency Committee for Pneumonia due to the Novel Coronavirus 2019-nCoV on 22 January 2020 in accordance with the International Health Regulations (2005), whether to announce the Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) and measures for prevention and control of the disease.
 6. The WHO has confirmed the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is the same virus species of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), and primarily announced it is the outbreak of Limited Human-to-Human Transmission. The 2019-nCoV can be prevented as follows:
 - Stay away from the people with the symptoms of respiratory diseases such as fever, coughing, sneezing
 - Avoid going to crowded areas
 - Using clothes and facemask to cover nose and mouth during sneezing and coughing
 - Avoid touching to animals with bare hands
 - Wash hands after touching materials exposed to patients and direct contacts with the patients
 - Health workers need to follow the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) for prevention of the disease whenever they contact with the patients
 - Domestic/Foreign travelers at the international airports are to follow travel advice issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports
- Update reports on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) will be published on the ministry's official website (<https://www.mohs.gov.mm/>) and Myanmar CDC Facebook Page (<https://web.facebook.com/MyanmarCDC/>), and that people are suggested to follow healthcare instructions.

Ministry of Health and Sports

Sports Science and Sports Medicine Conference 2020 held in Yangon

THE Sports Science and Sports Medicine Conference 2020 was held at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

The conference was supervised by the Department of Sports and Physical Education of Ministry of Health and Sports and jointly organized by Myanmar Olympic Committee and Myanmar Women's Sports Federation.

First, the conference was opened by playing the national anthem, followed by playing the video message delivered by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe.

In his video message, Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe said the purpose of organizing the conference is to improve the sports community through "Exercise is Medicine (EIM)" programme, urging 48 sports federations and Myanmar Olympic Committee in Myanmar to cooperate with the ministry in marching towards to



UPC Chairman Dr Tin Myo Win, Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thien and attendees pose for a photo at the Sports Science and Sports Medicine Conference 2020 in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

the goal. EIM initiative is beneficial to health, and a healthy nation can be built by its people doing physical exercises.

If people are healthy, there will only a few patients in the hospitals and quality health care from the doctors and nurses can also be received as they would

have to take care of a few patients.

The aim of the conference held with the theme "Brighter Future of Myanmar Sports through Sports Sciences and Sports Medicines" is to become Myanmar sports community drug-free and stand with dignity, and conduct

health care activities with Exercise is Medicine (EIM) programme.

Afterwards, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thien delivered an opening speech, and expressed his hope that Myanmar stands with dignity in the world, developing sports science

and sports medicine after the conference.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein detailed the beginning and condition of sports science in Myanmar, and the role of sports medicine.

The conference was then opened by UPC Chairman Dr Tin Myo Win, Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thien, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein, Permanent Secretary Dr Thet Kiang Win, Director-General U Myo Hlaing, Dr Ye Tint Lwin and international scholars who will deliver addresses the event.

UPC Chairman Dr Tin Myo Win, Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thien and party also observed the sports medicine booths displayed at the conference. In the second session, 14 academics from six countries delivered the speeches on sports science and sports medicines.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Annex 438

MNA, “Tatmadaw releases statement on ICOE Report”, *The Global New Light of Myanmar*, 9 May 2020

Available at:

<https://www.burmalibrary.org/sites/burmalibrary.org/files/obl/GNLM2020-05-09-red.pdf>

NATIONAL

Union Minister U Ohn Maung joins digital presentation of COVID-19 impact on tourism

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Union Education Minister joins online meeting of Global Partnership for Education

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Saturday, 9 May 2020

State Counsellor discusses ground situation in Sagaing Region with frontline workers combatting COVID-19



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets Sagaing regional government and medical officials on the video conference from Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

“PEOPLE are the key in struggling against COVID-19”, said State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi during the video conference yesterday from the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw with

Sagaing Region government’s Social Affairs Minister Dr Zaw Win, Medical Superintendent of the 300-bedded General Hospital in Kalay Township Dr Aung Myo Win, and Dr Myint Myint Thein, Vice Chairperson of the

Myanmar Medical Practitioners Association, Monywa office. After introductory remarks by the State Counsellor, Dr Aung Myo Win gave a short briefing about prevention and treatment of COVID-19 disease, readiness

of places for positive patients, formation of medical treatment units, training for preventive measures, transport arrangements for patients, medicines and medical supplies, active participations of local people,

civil service personnel and civil service organizations, health conditions of positive patients, future plans, and requirements for land and building facilities.

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One more coronavirus case on Friday, total tally reaches 177

1. The National Health Laboratory released the results of their second batch of testing of 163 lab specimens at 10:00 pm on 8-5-2020 and discovered a new case of COVID-19.
2. There are currently 177 COVID-19 positive cases in Myanmar as of 10:00 pm, 8-5-2020.
3. Out of confirmed cases, a total of 67 persons have recovered, and 43 of them have been discharged from the hospitals. They will be kept under isolation at the designated places.
4. There have been 6 deaths among confirmed cases.
5. On 8 May, 256 samples from NHL (Yangon), 93 samples from DMR, 233 samples from No (2) Defence Services Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw were tested.

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MRCS celebrate World Red Cross Day online
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NATIONAL
7 agreements reached at Govt, NCA-S EAOs meeting on COVID-19 preventive measures
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BUSINESS
Over 16,000 acres of land put under cultivation of soybean in Mohnyin
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“People are the key”

One more coronavirus case on Friday, total tally reaches 177

FROM PAGE-1

| Case no. | Age | Gender | Address | History of contact with COVID-19 confirmed cases | History of travel abroad | Lab result for COVID-19 | Remark |
|----------|-----|--------|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 177 | 84 | Female | Insein Township, Yangon Region | Yes (Cases-151, 152, 153, 154, 162) | None | Positive | Originally under quarantine (Insein Public Hospital) |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of lab specimens tested by Department of Medical Research (8-5-2020) | 93 |
| Number of lab specimens tested by National Health Laboratory (First+second batch) (8-5-2020) | 256 |
| Number of lab specimens tested by Tatmadaw 1000-Bedded Hospital (2), Nay Pyi Taw (8-5-2020) | 233 |
| Number of new confirmed cases for COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) | 1 |

| | New | Total |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-------|
| Confirmed cases of COVID-19 | 1 | 177 |
| Recovered after medical treatment | 5 | 67 |
| Deaths | 0 | 6 |

Ministry of Health and Sports (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Tatmadaw releases statement on ICOE report

THE Tatmadaw True News Information Team released a statement regarding the Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) report yesterday.

The statement says the Tatmadaw completely received the ICOE report published in January 2020 and its 30 supplements. It said the Tatmadaw True News Information Team had announced on 20 March 2020 that they will publish news on the court-martial investigation regarding Gu Dar Pyin village and will investigate Maung Nu village and Chut Pyin village with a court of inquiry related to events mentioned in the report. The statement says the court-martial for Gu Dar Pyin village had accumulated suffi-

cient evidence and concluded its investigation on 30 April 2020. It says the procedure closely adhered to guidelines, orders and notifications issued by the National Level Central Committee on Protection, Containment and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and ensured no security violations were committed. The statement says the court-martial report will be published after receiving approval from the relevant authoritative body and the court of inquiry investigation into Maung Nu village and Chut Pyin village will continue, according to the military advocate-general's office.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Notification for farmers on monsoon agricultural loans

1. Myanmar Agricultural Bank under the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry will begin issuing monsoon agricultural loans beginning on 15 May 2020. The loan rate will remain the same from last year at K150,000 per acre. The interest rate has been reduced from 8% per annum from the previous year to 5% per annum. New loans will only be issued for those who have repaid their old loans.

2. As COVID-19 is still spreading across Myanmar, the deadline for repaying the monsoon loan for 2019 has been extended to May 2020 with no penalties.

3. The following arrangements have been made with state/regional, district and township administrative bodies:

(a) Banks with large spaces will issue the loans at the bank building. Banks with small spaces will choose a suitable spacious location, such as the town hall or a school building, to issue the loan.

(b) Regional administrative bodies will transport the loans to sub-townships and areas under travel restrictions if necessary.

(c) Farmers and cultivators are urged to closely adhere to guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports to protect themselves and the people around them.

4. Mobile payment services for loans will be organized with local mobile financial services depending on demand from farmers and the overall regional situation.

5. Farmers and cultivators are urged to swiftly contact their local Myanmar Agricultural Bank for more information.

Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Myanmar has brought back 608 citizens to home from foreign countries



Myanmar citizens came back home by relief flights after they stranded in foreign countries due to suspension of flights amid COVID-19. PHOTO: MNA

MYANMAR has arranged relief flights for a total of 608 citizens who wanted to come back home from Japan, India, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, Bangladesh and Singapore where they were stranded due to suspension of passenger flights. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs helped for the returns under the directive of National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treat-

ment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The Myanmar Airways International carried back 93 persons from Malaysia, while 104 persons from the Republic of Korea and a total of 16 persons from Indonesia, the United States and the United Kingdoms were brought back from the Incheon International Airport.

On arrival at the Yangon International Airport, the Minis-

try of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Yangon Region government helped for their 21-day quarantine period at the designated places and the respective hotels in line with the guidelines of immigration and healthcare processes. The government will also send a relief flight to Singapore to carry the remaining 146 citizens.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Annex 439

Nursyazwani and E. Prasse-Freeman, “The hidden heterogeneity of Rohingya refugees”, *New Mandala*, 12 June 2020

Available at:

<https://www.newmandala.org/the-hidden-heterogeneity-of-rohingya-refugees/>

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NEW PERSPECTIVES ON SOUTHEAST ASIA



IMAGE CREDIT: FLICKR USER EU CIVIL PROTECTION AND HUMANITARIAN AID, CREATIVE COMMONS

The hidden heterogeneity of Rohingya refugees

NURSYAZWANI AND ELLIOT PRASSE-FREEMAN - 12 JUN, 2020



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As the battle against COVID-19 rages in Malaysia, a new population has become collateral damage: Rohingya refugees. A terrified public, instigated by political opportunists, has endorsed numerous anti-refugee [online petitions](#) that have gained well-distributed support across Malaysia's ethnic spectrum. Although Malaysia once embraced these survivors of Myanmar's genocidal regime, Rohingya refugees are now being called ungrateful, uncivilised and backward leeches. This public outcry has led to mass support for Malaysia [turning away boats carrying Rohingya](#) asylum seekers. Given that [many Malaysians assume](#) that all refugees from Myanmar are Rohingya, the petitions have supported Malaysia's detention of thousands of undocumented migrants—even those holding UNHCR registration cards—whose fates are unclear.

<https://www.newmandala.org/the-hidden-heterogeneity-of-rohingya-refugees/>[14/03/2023 16:23:42]

Annex 439

The hidden heterogeneity of Rohingya refugees - New Mandala

Perceptions of Rohingya refugees as indolent and, more recently, as virus carriers emerge from simplistic discursive representations that materialise from and circulate far beyond Malaysia. A number of entities unwittingly mutually reinforce reductive depictions of Rohingya. Myanmar nationalists vehemently deny that Rohingya belong to the polity, since the latter are perceived to be different—Rohingya “look South Asian” and are Muslims in a Buddhist country. International media have incentives to tell (and sell) simple stories, while humanitarian agencies achieve efficiencies in aid delivery when they can treat every Rohingya as a replicable token of a common type. Rohingya elites themselves have reason to present a common and distinct Rohingya identity, as this contests the Myanmar state’s assertion that the Rohingya are simply interlopers from Bangladesh (“Bengalis”).

In the academic world, fieldwork with Rohingya documents significant internal differentiation. But this reality has been obscured by the lack of sustained study of the group, particularly because northern Rakhine (Arakan) state, the area to which Rohingya are indigenous, has been largely inaccessible to researchers. Academics have mostly only considered elite debates or recapitulated stories of misery in Burma.

The creation of a homogenous image of Rohingya obscures the ethnic community’s striking diversity: Rohingya do not share an identical dialect, do not all look the same, nor are even all Muslim. Such diversity is unsurprising—homogenous groups tend to be maintained only through coercion and control. Given the Myanmar state’s claims that Rohingya do not exist, counter-narratives claiming a unified identity also make perfect sense. What is noteworthy are the *effects* of these claims and counterclaims amid mass violence and dispossession. Those who do not conform to the narrow characteristics which allegedly distinguish the Rohingya are not only excluded from making identity claims, but also the protection afforded to recognised asylum seekers and refugees.

This post draws upon fieldwork in Malaysia, Bangladesh, Thailand and Yangon, Myanmar between 2017 and 2020 to describe processes of Rohingya identity (re)formation amid ethnic cleansing and attempted extermination. We focus on Rohingya elite discourses and the criteria used by humanitarian organisations to grant protections to refugees, to show how both co-produce a reified image of the Rohingya that is then represented in media and academic treatments. The disciplining of ethnic diversity in turn becomes internalised by Rohingya refugees, who self-reinforce the homogenisation of Rohingya identity.

Strategic essentialism

In Myanmar, the ratification of an ethnic group as indigenous is the only method for securing recognition of substantive citizenship. The claim to citizenship rests in turn on the claim to an essential identity uniting the Rohingya. While some Rohingya elites stress the group’s capacious origins and experiences, many self-appointed Rohingya leaders reject expressions of internal

<https://www.newmandala.org/the-hidden-heterogeneity-of-rohingya-refugees/>[14/03/2023 16:23:42]

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The hidden heterogeneity of Rohingya refugees - New Mandala

difference that might potentially undercut their identity's supposed authenticity. These Rohingya elites have identified particular religious, linguistic, territorial and cultural indicators to demarcate an "authentic" Rohingya-ness that fits the racial ideology of the Myanmar state: Rohingya *are* Muslims, speak Rohingya, have their homeland in Rakhine state, and share both agrarian subsistence patterns (fishing and farming) and a village culture defined by segmentary clan-based kinship systems.

There are several problems with this description. The Rohingya have faced a half-century of systematic oppression by the Myanmar state, one that has precipitated waves of violent expulsions complemented by legal and symbolic erasure. It is arguably no longer possible to embody the narrow characteristics listed above. The growing displacement of Rohingya has disrupted clan systems and opportunities to learn language dialects, while severing intimate relationships between subsistence patterns and lands. For instance, the absence of vernacular print or radio hinders the standardisation of a dialect, facilitating evolutions in the Rohingya language (which was already subjected to significant regional variation). Moreover, as the putatively originary elements of Rohingya-ness intermix with host cultures across greater Asia (Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Pakistan, in particular), new variations of identity are produced. An essentialised "Rohingya-ness" can no longer be adequately performed.

Even if the mass uprooting of Rohingya had not transpired, such essentialism would still exclude some who identify as Rohingya. For instance, while Rohingya historian Ba Tha asserts that, "All Rohingya profess Islam," Hindu Rohingya and the tiny but vocal Christian Rohingya community put paid to such blanket assertions. While these are arguably miniscule exceptions, they throw into relief a larger schism between a growing conservative strain of Islam and those Rohingya who espouse a syncretic Islam that blends animism and Hinduism. Some accounts attribute this expanding rift to Saudi Arabian influence, while others describe the increase in conservatism as a self-protective response to growing vulnerability.

Humanitarian narratives

As humanitarian and state apparatuses internalise essentialist definitions of Rohingya-ness, they become sieving machines separating "true" Rohingya from "false". Rejecting deviant Rohingya experiences, cultural practices and identities is problematic because it denies protection to those with legitimate claims to membership. Humanitarian regulatory processes and state discourses pressure Rohingya to perform and take up the traits that signify an "authentic" Rohingya. State elites such as Malaysia's Najib and Bangladesh's Sheikh Hasina have emphasised how Muslim countries must help Rohingya as they are fellow "Muslim brothers and sisters". Rohingya consequently have an incentive to foreground a Muslim identity to qualify for the support of such states.

<https://www.newmandala.org/the-hidden-heterogeneity-of-rohingya-refugees/>[14/03/2023 16:23:42]

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Meanwhile the UNHCR compels Rohingya to conform to narrow definitions of Rohingya-ness in order to access the identification documents that provide a modicum of protection in Malaysia. In interviews, Rohingya applicants for refugee status, translators and civil society leaders revealed some non-Rohingya applicants (Bangladeshis or Myanmar Muslims) have attained cards by paying bribes to translators or colluding with Rohingya applicants by “learning things about [Rohingya] areas in Rakhine state and paying to ‘join’ their family,” as one translator told us.

More importantly, Rohingya have reportedly been denied cards by not satisfying the agency’s expectations of ‘authentic’ Rohingya-ness. Cards have been allegedly refused to applicants who were deemed too educated, could not adequately relay geographical knowledge of Rakhine state or describe details about political events (pogroms against Rohingya, for example), or could not speak in the same Rohingya dialect as the UNHCR translator. Insistence on these qualities would particularly disadvantage Rohingya who spent most or all of their lives outside of Rakhine state.

Rohingya applicants rehearse the narratives of those who have successfully attained refugee status to prepare for the UNHCR interview. Kamal, a Rohingya who came to Malaysia through Bangladesh and Thailand in 2016, shared that: “My relative told me the questions the UNHCR asked. I practiced how to answer them with my relative, and I learnt some of the answers he gave so that I could be guaranteed success in getting the UN card.” The perceived need to “tell the same story” for fear of being denied refugee status reinforces the homogeneity of Rohingya-ness as an ethnic category, putting in doubt all narratives that stray from the dominant one.

Many who now see themselves as Rohingya only came to do so after the violence of the last decade, or from interacting with humanitarian agencies or host states—some had not even heard the name before. Hasinah, an older woman who fled Rakhine after the 2015 conflict, shared that she had only thought of herself as a Myanmar Muslim back in Sittwe. The discovery of her Rohingya identity took place when the UNHCR officer told her that she was Rohingya: “I only [learned] in Malaysia that because we are Rohingya, that’s why Myanmar wanted to kill us. Before this [back in Myanmar], I only thought it was because we are Muslims, and Buddhists hate Muslims.”

These experiences demonstrate how some Rohingya have begun to understand themselves through the parameters they encounter during state registration processes. They also show how the Rohingya category is enlarged by the incorporation of those who had not seen themselves as Rohingya before. Hasinah’s testimony reflects a shift in her identity, and how she relates to her world. In explaining the violence in Myanmar, her Rohingya identity becomes foregrounded over her general Muslim one. Hasinah’s experiences do not imply that all Rohingya were unaware of their ethnic identity or the basis of their persecution. Instead, narratives such as Hasinah’s reveal the diversity in Rohingya’s perspectives. They also point to the growing solidification of Rohingya-

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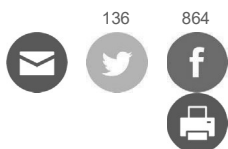
ness—to be Rohingya is also to be Muslim, thereby excluding the marginal voices of non-Muslim Rohingya.

Embracing Rohingya diversity

“Those are Myanmar Muslims and Bangladeshis. Not Rohingya,” so declared a Malaysia-based Rohingya refugee in a May 2020 Facebook post, at pains to distinguish the Rohingya community from other refugee groups in Malaysia. If Rohingya were not already compelled to differentiate themselves, the COVID-19 pandemic has both produced and made more pronounced distinctions between Rohingya and other migrant communities. Adding to the pressure from humanitarian and state apparatuses, societal acceptance—and rejection—of Rohingya in Malaysia have led to the growing need among Rohingya refugees to present themselves as a docile subjects deserving of protection.

Allowing for alternative performances of Rohingya-ness not only allows for a broader and more complex understanding of Rohingya to emerge—a good in its own right. It accomplishes two additional goals. First, embracing Rohingya diversity forms a stronger basis for the articulation of collective political aspirations. The tactic of strategic essentialism has not worked due to the Myanmar state’s persistent denial of Rohingya as “inauthentic.” Embracing Rohingya diversity, by contrast, recognises their various complex historical and cultural entanglements with Rakhine state and Myanmar in general.

Second—and arguably more importantly for a stateless group of people who have been denied belonging and a homeland—flattening Rohingya-ness inevitably prevents many “deviant Rohingya” from claiming a name that has been denied by the Myanmar state. For some, the Rohingya identity is the only thing they have left. The Rohingya identity is a crucial aspect of their existence. A more fluid understanding of Rohingya—one that both allows more people to enter and more people to exit, but also permits people to inhabit both positions at once—would better reflect the immense challenges of living as Rohingya today.



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Fighting on two fronts: the women facing conflict and COVID-19 in Rakhine state

Women in Rakhine state are doubly jeopardised when the threat of COVID-19 intersects with war.



Myanmar's economic relief plan risks excluding vulnerable populations

Who gets to be categorized as vulnerable and receive much-needed economic assistance?



COVID-19 gives cover for threats to freedom of information and expression in Myanmar

An ongoing crackdown on freedom of expression is impacting the access to essential information.

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2020



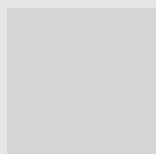
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



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DISCLAIMER

New Mandala has been based at the Australian National University (ANU) since its founding in 2006.

<https://www.newmandala.org/the-hidden-heterogeneity-of-rohingya-refugees/>[14/03/2023 16:23:42]

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BY COUNTRY

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<https://www.newmandala.org/the-hidden-heterogeneity-of-rohingya-refugees/>[14/03/2023 16:23:42]

Annex 440

Tatmadaw True News Information Team, “Press Statement of Tatmadaw True News Information Team about allegations regarding villages in Maungdaw area”, *The Global New Light of Myanmar*, 15 September 2020

Available at:

<https://www.burmalibrary.org/sites/burmalibrary.org/files/obl/GNLM2020-09-15-red.pdf>

NATIONAL

La Hu National Development Party and National Democratic Party for Development present their policies, stances and work programmes

PAGE-10, 11

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 152, 13th Waning of Wagaung 1382 ME

www.gnml.com.mm, www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Tuesday, 15 September 2020

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar National Reconciliation and Peace Centre Announcement

12th Waning of Wagaung, 1382 ME
14th September 2020

1. The National Reconciliation and Peace Centre has put an emphasis on implementing reconciliation, internal peace and political dialogue which are crucial for establishing a Democratic Federal Union expected by national people for many years.
2. The works for increasing negotiation momentum have encountered some difficulties under prevention, control and treatment measures of COVID-19. However, in coordination with the group representing the government, the Hluttaw and the Tatmadaw, the group representing the ethnic armed organizations which signed Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, and the group representing political parties, the NRPC could successfully hold the 4th session of Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong in Nay Pyi Taw from 19 to 21 August 2020 in line with the rules and regulations of COVID-19 prevention and control health measures.
3. The Tatmadaw has also announced suspension of military operations in the conflict zones, except for the areas of terrorist groups from 10 May to 30 September 2020 for effective measures of control, prevention and treatment of COVID-19 more widely while aiming for internal peace.
4. The announcement and the activities of Tatmadaw have reflected implementation of UN Security Council's resolutions adopted on 1 July 2020, and that NRC welcomed these measures which have supported its peacemaking efforts.
5. The genuine desire and active cooperation for peace of the relevant organizations, including the Tatmadaw, could help in successful holding of the 4th session of Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong in accordance with the healthcare rules of COVID-19 prevention and control measures. Moreover, the stakeholders could sign Part III of agreements for the Union Accord crucial for the peacemaking processes in the post 2020 General Election. It is announced that the NRPC will continue to establish a genuine Democratic Federal Union expected by the national people with absolute determination.



On completion, the expanded quarantine facilities will be able to accommodate 1,220 patients.
PHOTO: SOE MYINT AUNG

Quarantine facilities in Phaunggyi being expanded

THE Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Federation is expanding facilities at the COVID-19 Medical Centre in the compound of Central Institute of Civil Service (Lower Myanmar) of Phaunggyi village in Hlegu Township, Yangon, to be able to accommodate a total of 1,220 patients.

U Shein Win, the chairman of MCEF, said that the expansion of facilities began after the meeting between departmental officials and the construction entrepreneurs on 1 September as the number of COVID-19 con-

firmed cases is increasing in Yangon Region.

Since 10 September, some patients have received medical treatments at the new facilities.

U Myo Myint, the General Secretary of MCEF, said that the COVID-19 Medical Centre will be used for only the patients with critical and serious health conditions due to the limited capacity of resources for medical workers and volunteers at the centre, while positive patients will be kept at the quarantine centres.

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YGN trucks not allowed to enter Magway city; goods unloaded at temporary terminal
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BUSINESS

Domestic, foreign enterprises in current FY create about 200,000 jobs
PAGE-7

2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



The General Election will be held on 8 November 2020.

- Union Election Commission has announced the first edition of eligible voter lists at local offices of the commission in respective wards/village-tracts, in the villages from 25 July 2020 to 7 November 2020.
- If the name of any eligible voter is not included in the list, voter registration can be requested by filling in Form 3.
- Objection can be filed against any ineligible voter in the list by using Form 4.
- Correction for voter list can be requested by using Form 4 (c).
- Voters can cast their votes only if their names are included in the voters list.
- Cooperation is requested for at least one member of each family to check their names without fail to ensure a complete and correct voters list.
- Check the voters lists not to lose voting rights by filling up discrepancies, deleting and making corrections.

2020
General Election
Sunday, 8 November 2020



Section 59 (g) in Hluttaw Election Law



IN accordance with section 59 (g) of the Hluttaw Election Law, no one is allowed to vote more than once in any election for a Hluttaw constituency in which he or she has the right to vote. Anyone who is found guilty of or abetting this act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or with fine not exceeding K100,000 (one hundred thousand Kyats), or with both.

Press Statement of Tatmadaw True News Information Team about allegations regarding villages in Maungdaw area

It was announced on 6 July 2020 that a court of inquiry led by Major-General Myat Kyaw had been established to investigate the events at the Chut Pyin and Maung Nu villages in Rakhine State in 2017. This investigation has advanced to such an extent that we can now announce that there will be a court-martial in this case, commencing before the end of 2020. Allegations

regarding Taung Bazar are included in the scope of the Maung Nu investigation announced on 6 July 2020.

Furthermore, we also announce that the analysis by the Office of the Judge Advocate-General of the final report (with annexes) of the Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) and other information has reached the point where the Office is investigating possible

wider patterns of violations in the region of northern Rakhine in 2016-2017. Allegations regarding villages in the Maungdaw area are included in the scope of this wider investigation.

Tatmadaw True News Information Team

Commerce Ministry organizes virtual coordination meeting on making smooth flow of goods amid COVID-19 pandemic

COMMERCE Ministry organizes a coordination meeting on plans for price stability and smooth flow of goods during the restriction period of COVID-19 via Zoom application yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, the Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint said that Myanmar successfully overcame the first wave of COVID-19, but the second wave had severely hit Myanmar. The citizens, the Union government, regional governments, and volunteers are taking collaborative efforts to respond to the second wave of COVID-19, he added.

He called on all the participants to make discussions on plans to continue trade, and to make flow of goods efficient and smooth while sticking to health guidelines.

He said that increasing cases in Yangon Region showed that COVID-19 can rapidly spread in



Union Minister Dr Than Myint discusses plans for price stability and smooth flow of goods during COVID-19 via Zoom from the Ministry of Commerce on 14 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

the areas which have large population. He urged the participants to frankly discuss on how they could help in making smooth flow

of goods.

During the meeting, the Deputy Minister for Commerce said that all stakeholders need

to take collaborative efforts to maintain the supply chain, to continue flow of goods despite travel restrictions, and to prevent

shortage of medicines.

Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aye Maung Sein explained about health examinations and opening of check gates in accordance with the instructions given by National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID - 19)

The Yangon Mayor explained about the arrangements for price stability and making flow of goods effective.

Officials from the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and its associated organizations including regional federations of chambers of commerce from Yangon, Mandalay and southern Shan State made discussions on plans for efficient flow of goods.

—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Annex 441

M. Safi, “Trump pardons Blackwater contractors jailed for massacre of Iraq civilians”, *The Guardian*, 23 December 2020

Available at:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/dec/23/trump-pardons-blackwater-contractors-jailed-for-massacre-of-iraq-civilians>

Annex 441

5/2/23, 11:21 PM

Trump pardons Blackwater contractors jailed for massacre of Iraq civilians | Iraq | The Guardian



Iraq

● This article is more than 2 years old

Trump pardons Blackwater contractors jailed for massacre of Iraq civilians

Four guards fired on unarmed crowd in Baghdad in 2007, killing 14 and sparking outrage over use of private security in war zones

Michael Safi in Beirut and agencies

Wed 23 Dec 2020 09:32 GMT

Donald Trump has pardoned four security guards from the private military firm Blackwater who were serving jail sentences for killing 14 civilians including two children in Baghdad in 2007, a massacre that sparked an international outcry over the use of mercenaries in war.

The four guards - Paul Slough, Evan Liberty, Dustin Heard and Nicholas Slatten - were part of an armoured convoy that opened fire indiscriminately with machine-guns, grenade launchers and a sniper on a crowd of unarmed people in a square in the Iraqi capital.

The Nisour Square massacre was one of the lowest episodes of the US-led invasion and occupation of Iraq.

Slough, Liberty and Heard were convicted on multiple charges of voluntary and attempted manslaughter in 2014, while Slatten, who was the first to start shooting, was convicted of first-degree murder. Slatten was sentenced to life and the others to 30 years in prison each.

An initial prosecution was thrown out by a federal judge - sparking outrage in Iraq - but the then vice-president, Joe Biden, promised to pursue a fresh prosecution, which succeeded in 2015.

At the sentencing, the US attorney's office said in a statement: "The sheer amount of unnecessary human loss and suffering attributable to the defendants' criminal conduct on 16 September 2007 is staggering."

After news of the pardon emerged on Tuesday night, Brian Heberlig, a lawyer for one of the four pardoned Blackwater defendants, said: "Paul Slough and his colleagues didn't deserve to spend one minute in prison. I am overwhelmed with emotion at this fantastic news."

The pardons are one of several the US president has granted to American service personnel and contractors accused or convicted of crimes against non-combatants and civilians in war zones. In November last year, he pardoned a former US army commando who was set to stand trial over the killing of a suspected Afghan bomb-maker, and a former army lieutenant convicted of murder for ordering his men to fire at three Afghans.

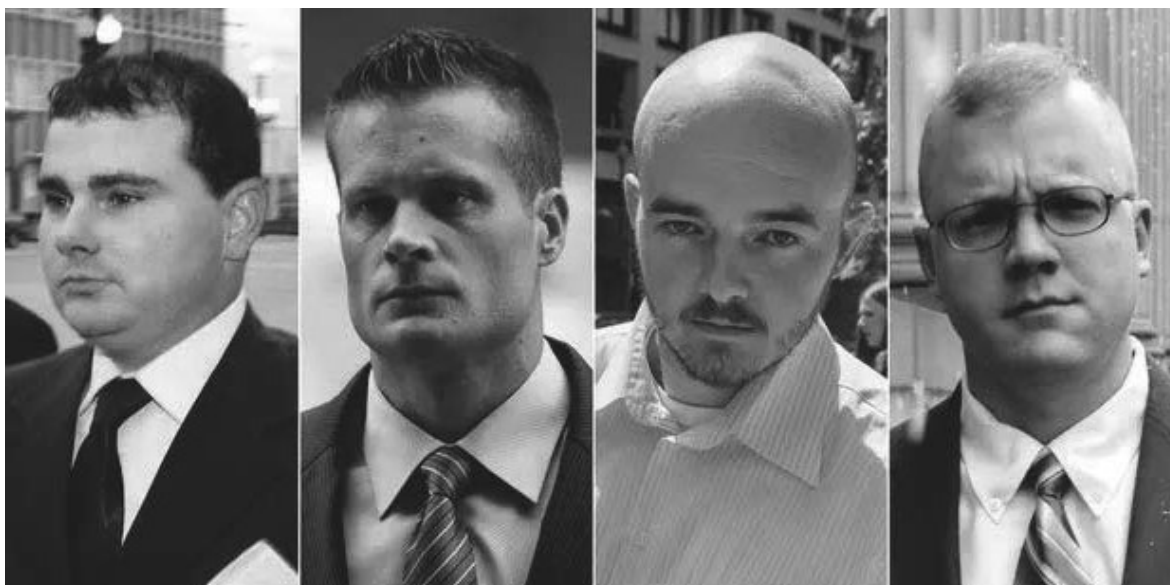
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/dec/23/trump-pardons-blackwater-contractors-jailed-for-massacre-of-iraq-civilians>

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Trump pardons Blackwater contractors jailed for massacre of Iraq civilians | Iraq | The Guardian



◻ (L-r) Dustin Heard, Evan Liberty, Paul Slough, Nicholas Slatten. Photograph: AP

Supporters of the former contractors at Blackwater Worldwide had lobbied for the pardons, arguing that the men had been excessively punished.

Prosecutors asserted the heavily armed Raven 23 Blackwater convoy launched an unprovoked attack using sniper fire, machine-guns and grenade launchers. Defence lawyers argued their clients returned fire after being ambushed by Iraqi insurgents.

The US government said in a memorandum filed after the sentencing: “None of the victims was an insurgent, or posed any threat to the Raven 23 convoy.” The memorandum also contained quotations from relatives of the dead, including Mohammad Kinani, whose nine-year-old son Ali was killed. “That day changed my life forever. That day destroyed me completely,” Kinani said.

Also quoted in the memorandum was David Boslego, a retired US army colonel, who said the massacre was “a grossly excessive use of force” and “grossly inappropriate for an entity whose only job was to provide personal protection to somebody in an armoured vehicle”.

Boslego also said the attack had “a negative effect on our mission, [an] adverse effect ... It made our relationship with the Iraqis in general more strained.”

FBI investigators who visited the scene in the following days described it as the “My Lai massacre of Iraq” - a reference to the infamous slaughter of civilian villagers by US troops during the Vietnam war in which only one soldier was convicted.

Blackwater was founded by Erik Prince, whose sister, Betsy DeVos, was appointed Trump’s education secretary.

After the convictions, Blackwater - which changed its name to Xe and then Academi after being sold - said it was “relieved that the justice system has completed its investigation into a tragedy that occurred at Nisour Square in 2007 and that any wrongdoing that was carried out has been addressed by our courts.

“The security industry has evolved drastically since those events, and under the direction of new ownership and leadership, Academi has invested heavily in compliance and ethics programmes, training for our employees, and preventative measures to strictly comply with all US and local government laws.”

The 14 victims killed by the Blackwater guards on trial were listed as Ahmed Haithem Ahmed Al Rubia’y, Mahassin Mohssen Kadhum Al-Khazali, Osama Fadhil Abbas, Ali Mohammed Hafedh Abdul Razzaq, Mohamed Abbas Mahmoud, Qasim Mohamed Abbas Mahmoud, Sa’adi Ali Abbas Alkarkh, Mushtaq Karim Abd Al-Razzaq, Ghaniyah Hassan Ali, Ibrahim Abid Ayash, Hamoud Sa’eed Abttan, Uday Ismail Ibrahiem, Mahdi Sahib Nasir and Ali Khalil Abdul Hussein.

The free press is under attack from multiple forces. Media outlets are closing their doors, victims to a broken business model. In much of the world, journalism is morphing into propaganda, as governments dictate what can and can’t be printed. In the last year alone, hundreds of reporters have been killed or imprisoned for doing their jobs. The UN reports that 85% of the world’s population experienced a decline in press freedom in their country in recent years.

This week marks the 30th annual World Press Freedom Day, a day for everyone to reflect on the importance of free expression as fundamental for all other rights. It is also an opportunity to pledge support for independent media - because without a robust and free press, a healthy democracy is impossible.

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Trump pardons Blackwater contractors jailed for massacre of Iraq civilians | Iraq | The Guardian

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Unlike many others, we have no billionaire owner - this helps us maintain the freedom to fearlessly chase the truth and report it with integrity. Your support will allow us to continue to work with trademark determination and passion to bring you journalism that's always free from commercial or political interference.

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Today we ask you to power Guardian reporting for the years to come, whether with a small sum or a larger one. **If you can, please support us on a monthly basis from just £2. It takes less than a minute to set up, and you can rest assured that you're making a big impact every single month in support of open, independent journalism. Thank you.**

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Multiple civilian deaths linked to 2016-17 British airstrikes against IS in Mosul

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21 Mar 2023



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21 Mar 2023



Today in Focus
The accidental journalist who covered the war in Iraq

20 Mar 2023



Annalen: 'feminist focuses n

11 Mar 202

Annex 442

O. Kutlu, “US continues to pardon war criminals in Iraq, Afghanistan”,
Anadolu Ajansi, 25 December 2020

Available at:

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/americas/us-continues-to-pardon-war-criminals-in-iraq-afghanistan/2088191>



WORLD, AMERICAS

US continues to pardon war criminals in Iraq, Afghanistan

President Trump's executive clemency keeps adding controversial military figures who were found guilty of killing civilians

Ovunc Kutlu | 25.12.2020 - Update : 25.12.2020



ANKARA

US President Donald Trump announcing this week a wave of pardons was the latest in a series of wielding his clemency powers over the years for war criminals that were convicted of killing civilians in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As US presidents have used their authority for more than two hundred years to offer second chances to some Americans, Trump has issued 70 pardons during his time in the White House as of Wednesday.

Trump's executive clemency, however, keeps adding controversial military figures after he pardoned four employees of an American private military company who killed civilians in Iraq and were found guilty by a US court in 2014.

Employees of Blackwater Security Consulting, now known as Academi, shot at Iraqi civilians, killing 17 and injuring 20 in Nisour Square, Baghdad on Sept. 16, 2007 as they were escorting a US embassy convoy.

The incident caused five investigations. The FBI found that at least 14 of the 17 Iraqis killed were shot without any cause, including 9- and 11-year-old boys.

Thirty witnesses from Iraq, the largest group of foreign witnesses to travel to US for a criminal trial. had described in the court that the four American men initiated unprovoked

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Annex 442

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US continues to pardon war criminals in Iraq, Afghanistan

Paul Slough from Texas was found guilty of 13 counts of voluntary manslaughter and 17 counts of attempted manslaughter. Evan Liberty from New Hampshire was found guilty of eight counts of voluntary manslaughter and 12 counts of attempted manslaughter.

And, Dustin Heard from Tennessee was found guilty of six counts of voluntary manslaughter and 11 counts of attempted manslaughter.

While a murder charge carries a mandatory sentence of life in prison, each voluntary manslaughter count carries a maximum sentence of 15 years, and attempted manslaughter counts carry seven-year maximum sentences.

"Seven years ago, these Blackwater contractors unleashed powerful sniper fire, machine guns and grenade launchers on innocent men, women and children," Ronald Machen, the US Attorney for the District of Columbia, said in his 2014 statement.

Blackwater had a \$1 billion government contract to protect American diplomats during the war in Iraq. In a 2007 congressional hearing on Blackwater misconduct, then-owner Erik Prince refused his employees to be defined as "mercenaries" and did not share information about his "private" company.

Blackwater was renamed as Xe Services in 2009, and known as Academi since 2011 after it was acquired by a group of private investors for around \$200 million.

Stabbing wounded prisoner

Trump in December 2019 ordered the US Navy not to remove Chief Petty Officer Edward Gallagher from its elite SEALs special operations force, and reversed his July 2019 court-martial demotion, saying: "This case was handled very badly from the beginning."

Gallagher was charged in September 2018 with 10 offenses, some of which included murder, attempted murder, and other war crimes tied to his deployment to Mosul, Iraq.

He was found guilty on a single charge -- stabbing to death a wounded 17-year-old Daesh/ISIS prisoner of war with a hunting knife, and posing with his corpse and sending the photo to his friends.

Gallagher, whose nickname was "Blade", was also accused by fellow Navy SEAL snipers of randomly shooting two Iraqi civilians, a schoolgirl and an elderly man, while veterans reported his conduct to military investigators as being "OK with killing anybody that was moving" and "freaking evil".

Navy Secretary Richard Spencer was ousted by the White House after he criticized Trump's intervention in Gallagher's case.

Pardons in past

Trump also pardoned in 2019 three Army officers, two of them accused of war crimes in Afghanistan -- 1st Lt. Clint Lorange and Maj. Mathew Golsteyn.

Lorange in 2012 was charged with two counts of second-degree murder after he ordered his men to open fire on three Afghan men who were on a motorcycle. He was found guilty by a court-martial in 2013 and sentenced to 19 years in prison serving six before receiving Trump's pardon.

Golsteyn, an Army Green Beret, was charged with murder after killing an Afghan civilian in 2010 who he claimed was a bombmaker for the Taliban killing two Marines. The army closed the case in 2013 but reopened it in 2016.

Trump in May 2019 had pardoned Army 1st Lt. Michael Behanna who was convicted of

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Annex 443


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TamilNet: 21.03.21 Navi Pillay explains 'human rights' limitations in Geneva on Tamil genocide



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Book Project: A grand plan for the narration of the nation of Eelam Tamils (www.tamilnet.org)



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Feature

Navi Pillay explains 'human rights' limitations in Geneva on Tamil genocide

[TamilNet, Sunday, 21 March 2021, 13:34 GMT]

The manifestation of a "pre-existing strategy" using archaeology and historic preservation as guises for political or religious agendas has been observed by the UN Special Rapporteurs visiting Sri Lanka in recent years. Today's international law has not provided universal human right to land. However, SL State's violations of the land rights of "marginalised communities" could be addressed under the normative framework of international law, said Dr Navanetham Pillay. She mentioned the violation of the Right of Self-Determination. Pillay appeared as a keynote speaker at a conference titled "Loss of the Tamil Homeland," which was convened by Justice C.V. Wigneswaran on Saturday. She was confronting TamilNet's questions over her failure to call for investigations on Tamil genocide, which includes examining the "pre-existing strategy" for all the crimes committed against Tamils in the past.

"I hope someday that what happened in Sri Lanka and is still happening will be tested in a criminal jurisdiction — whether it is the International Criminal Court, a Hybrid Court or a Special Tribunal, which will hear the evidence to make that decision," Dr Pillay said.

"I am not responsible — Of course, the OISL initiative was taken when I was still High Commissioner; That report came out after I retired," she said.

Although the former High Commissioner for Human Rights was still in the mode of giving excuses for dodging to call for investigations on genocide in the run up to the OISL Investigation process, her responses were indirectly implying how the future demands of Tamils need be formulated and who should act to make the UN deliver them.












She mentioned Special Tribunal (ICT) in addition to the ICC along with Hybrid Courts as the courts where the crime of genocide could be determined. The journalists, civil society activists and possibly some State parties, are the ones who are not bound by the "human rights" limitations in passionately calling for genocide investigations before an actual criminal investigation takes place, according to her.

"[I]n the Human Rights Council, we are limited to addressing human rights issues. Very often, we identify — we say these human rights violations are so gross that they could amount to crimes against humanity. That will be the explanation why the OISL had a limited mandate on what they could do and not," Dr Pillay said.

However, her explanation on this regard goes contrary to what the UN Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar, established by her successor, proposed in 2018.

TamilNet's introduction to the questions: When you visited the island in 2013 in the capacity of Human Rights High Commissioner, you went on record stating that no one you had met on the island used the word genocide to you. Furthermore, you were implying that there was no "clear case of genocide" by comparing the situation with Rwanda as you had the experience of being a judge in the ICTR and that you said it was a "clear case" for Rwanda of genocide. In the mainstream Tamil opinion, there is a "clear case of genocide" in Sri Lanka. All mainstream Tamil political actors since 1956 have made this claim for at least 65 years. The SL State has not only waged mass slaughter of Eelam Tamils, but it has also "deliberately inflicted on the group, conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part". The state-driven land grab in the North and East, which is being discussed today, is also a systematic project carried out with genocidal intent. There is a clear case of existing ideology and a provable grand plan of Sinhala militarisation and colonisation in the island.

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Annex 443

TamilNet: 21.03.21 Navi Pillay explains 'human rights' limitations in Geneva on Tamil genocide

Question 1: Why did the OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka (OISL) avoid looking into the crime of genocide under your administration?

Dr Navanetham Pillay: "[O]nly a Court of law having heard all the evidence can decide whether genocide was committed. The crucial element of the crime of genocide is — the prosecution has to prove an intention to destroy from the policy, the plans and the actions. This is why human rights activists don't use the word loosely; Lawyers and judges don't either; Journalists do; And, of course, activists being passionate that their sufferings must be on the highest scale. Let me assure you that crimes against humanity are equally as serious as genocide. So, I hope someday that what happened in Sri Lanka and is still happening will be tested in a criminal jurisdiction — whether it is the International Criminal Court, a Hybrid Court or a Special Tribunal, which will hear the evidence to make that decision. I am not responsible — Of course, the OISL initiative was taken when I was still High Commissioner; That report came out after I retired. But, I could readily answer that question that in the Human Rights Council, we are limited to addressing human rights issues. Very often, we identify — we say these human rights violations are so gross that they could amount to crimes against humanity. That will be the explanation why the OISL had a limited mandate on what they could do and not. However, there is [inaudible]."



Dr Navanetham Pillay

Question 2: Do you feel that time has come for UN mechanisms to look into the allegation of genocide, and if so, what is the proper mechanism (UNHRC or UN General Assembly) where Tamils should take this forward?

Dr Navanetham Pillay: "The Human Rights Council has limited mandate. It is a subsidiary body of the UN General Assembly, and its mandate is human rights. So, the Human Rights Council cannot refer a matter to the International Criminal Court. The only body that can do so is the Security Council. They have already done so in respect of Darfur in Sudan and Libya. So this precedent, where there is enough cause and pressure particularly from civil society and from states that support you on your call for justice — if you can get that level of support— then Security Council is the only alternative [inaudible]."

Question 3: If you are still not convinced that there is a "clear case of genocide" of Tamils in Sri Lanka, what are the grounds that makes you believe so? (Your 2013 comment: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3ZX57GnYdg>)

Dr Navanetham Pillay: "Only a court can make that decision after hearing all the evidence. I have no position on this. I hear people, and I follow some of the evidence. But, it is only a Court that can determine whether there has been a genocide or not."

* * *


Questions raised to Dr Pillay at the conference were not intended to seek her clarification on where the crime of genocide gets finally determined, but why the OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka failed to call for such a subsequent judicial investigation.

Apart from interpreting Dr Pillay's explanations that she was "not responsible" for the findings of the OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka (OISL), the UNHRC's role being limited to the "human rights" alone and that the UN findings on crimes against humanity being equally as powerful as the crime of genocide, Eelam Tamils need to grasp the fact it was the lack of will from the entire UN Human Rights mechanism, under her command as well as her predecessor and the successors, that failed to address the root crime in the situation of Tamils.

The US administration under President Obama was primarily responsible for limiting the situation's scope under Agenda Item 2. Obama is also trying to evade his administration's responsibility in 2009 and in 2015 passing the blame over to the UN and all other Member States.

In his 2020 memoir 'A Promised Land', Obama wrote: "[E]ven after the Cold War, divisions within the Security Council continued to hamstring the U.N.'s ability to tackle problems. Its member states lacked either the means or the

oriented politics of Tamils and Muslims

22.01.21 08:01 
Gotabaya sets up deceptive COI cting 'sovereignty' and 'non-aligned' foreign pol cy

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“Al-Yaqin: The Embodied Terror of Ukhia-Teknaf”, *Ukhiya News*, 2 July 2021 [in Bangla, with English translation]

Bangla version available at:

<https://www.ukhiyanews.com/%e0%a6%89%e0%a6%96%e0%a6%bf%e0%a7%9f%e0%a6%be-%e0%a6%9f%e0%a7%87%e0%a6%95%e0%a6%a8%e0%a6%be%e0%a6%ab%e0%a7%87-%e0%a6%ae%e0%a7%82%e0%a6%b0%e0%a7%8d%e0%a6%a4%e0%a6%bf%e0%a6%ae%e0%a6%be%e0%a6%a8/114367/>

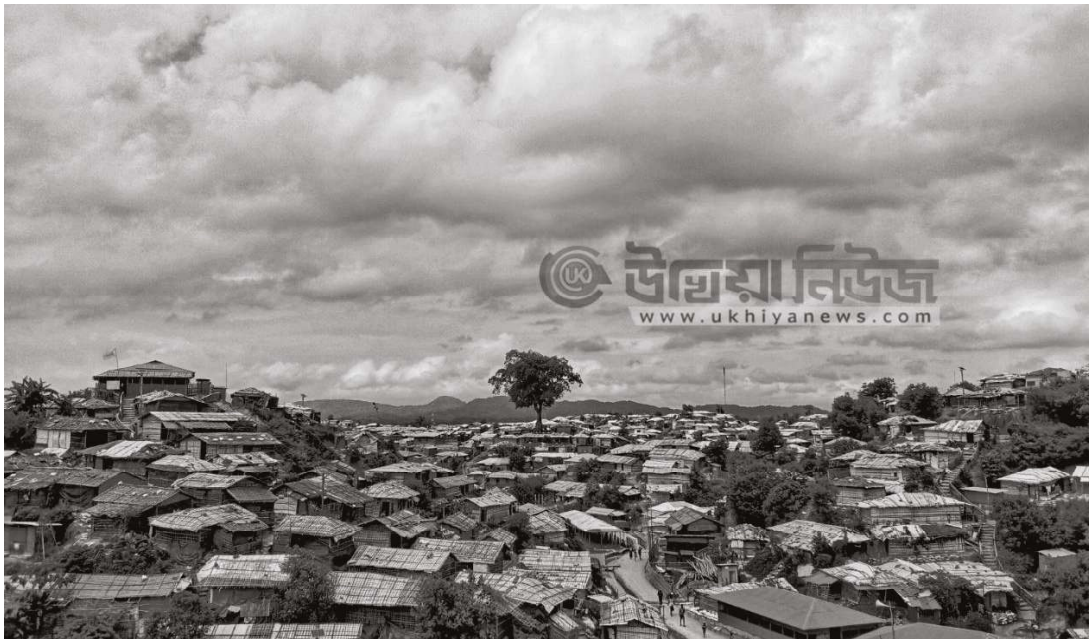


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'Al-Yaqin', the embodied terror of Ukha - Teknaf



©Published: 02/07/2021 8:54 AM , Updated: 02/07/2021 2:07 PM [Print](#)



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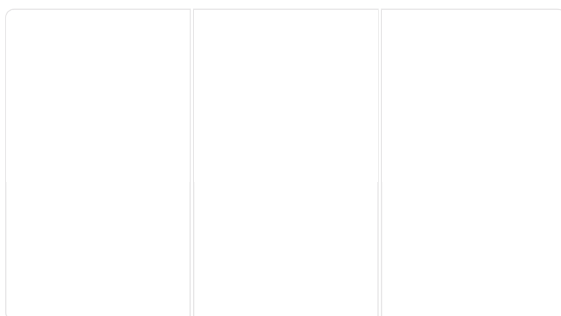


Annex 444



Bangladeshis were abducted and taken to the deserted hills of Cox's Bazar. There, hands, feet and eyes were tied and brutally tortured. Then he was released with the money. This force has also set a precedent of digging holes in the mountains and burying them if the money is not paid on time. The Rohingya-controlled armed forces in Cox's Bazar are called Haraka 'al-Yakin'.

Currently, the members of this force have created terror among local Bangladeshis including Rohingyas. They are also known as Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (Arsa) in Cox's Bazar. The people of Cox's Bazar also termed it as 'militant army'.



According to Dhaka Post's investigation, Al-Yaqin currently has around 2,000 members in Cox's Bazar. They also have about 150 women members. They are scattered in every Rohingya camp in Cox's Bazar and Teknaf. But they have more members in Kutupalong and Balukhali.

Al-Yaqin currently has around 2,000 members in Cox's Bazar. They also have about 150 women members. They are scattered in every Rohingya camp in Cox's Bazar and Teknaf. However, one of the reasons for the displacement of the Rohingyas from their home country of Myanmar, where they have a large number in Kutupalong and Balukhali, was the attack on the country's army. The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (Arsa) was involved in the attack. Now they are dominating Bangladesh as well. Besides, 'Al-Yakin' is working inside the Rohingya camp for selling drugs, human trafficking, collecting ransom after kidnapping, robbery and collecting firearms for drug money.

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In September 2019, Mohammad Omar Farooq (30), president of Ward No. 9 of Hnila Union of Teknaf Upazila, was shot dead. First, it is known that a local dacoit group is involved in this murder. Later it was found that Al-Yaqin's terrorists were behind the murder. However, two of their members were killed in a shootout with the police.

According to a responsible source of Cox's Bazar police, at least 25 Rohingya and Bangladeshi citizens have been killed by Al-Yakin in the last few years. They often kidnap locals (Bangladeshi). The news of taking ransom to the deserted hills is also heard. The police raided Pahar based on the complaints of several families of the victims. However, the law enforcement agencies have not been able to arrest a single member of this gang so far.

In a video obtained by Dhaka Post, Al-Yaqin leaders claimed that Chittagong and Cox's Bazar are part of Arakan. They have been in Myanmar's Rakhine for so long. Now another kingdom of them has come to Cox's Bazar. They will stay here, they will take control of Cox's Bazar to realize the demands of Rohingyas.

In 2019, Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) also conducted drone raids on several remote hills including Baharchhara Toygya Hills in Teknaf. However, their location could not be identified.

What does Al-Yaqin want?

Although no member of this force spoke directly with the Dhaka Post, several of their leaders regularly broadcast videos on YouTube. In the background (surroundings) of these videos are desolate mountains and weapons. However, it could not be confirmed whether they are contained in Bangladesh or not.

In a video obtained by Dhaka Post, Al-Yaqin leaders claimed that Chittagong and Cox's Bazar are part of Arakan. They have been in Myanmar's Rakhine for so long. Now another kingdom of them has come to Cox's Bazar. They will stay here, take control of Cox's Bazar to meet Rohingya demands.

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I was abducted from Leda Rohingya camp. They blindfolded me and took me to the top of Shalbon Hill. Kamrul Hasan, the victim CNG driver, was beaten two to three times a day, stripped and brutally beaten, but the terrorists of Al-Yaqin involved in the torture and rape of the Rohingyas inside the camp.

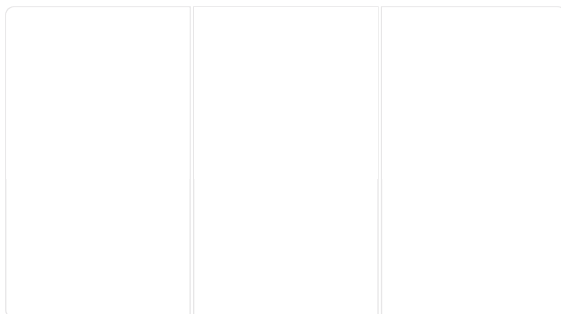


The horror of Al-Yaqin in the face of the locals

Shaplapur is the largest union in Cox's Bazar district. It is under Maheshkhali Upazila. The members of this force have abducted many people from Shaplapur and collected ransom. Dhaka Post spoke to four victims who returned with ransom. One of them is a local businessman. The businessman, who did not wish to be named, said that he was picked up in front of the Leda Rohingya camp in Teknaf in the second week of June. After about 15 days, the family brought him back with a ransom of five lakh rupees.

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Al-Yaqin members kidnapped a CNG driver named Kamrul Hasan from Teknaf on May 19 this year. He told Dhaka Post, 'I was abducted from Leda Rohingya camp. They blindfolded me and took me to the top of Shalbon Hill. There they were beaten two or three times a day, stripped and brutally beaten.'



A number of Rohingyas from Kutupalong camp, who did not disclose their names, said that most of the people in the camp want peace. They move according to the instructions of Bangladesh law and order forces. However, several terrorist organizations, including Al-Yaqin, are causing unrest in the camp. Not only Bangladeshis, Rohingyas are also being tortured by them. Al-Yaqin was responsible for the horrific fire that broke out at the Balukhali camp in Ukhia in March this year. They burned the houses of Rohingyas because of the spread of domination

. 'They used to call my father every day. Demanded 10 lakh rupees as ransom. Calling the father, they would fire blanks to scare him. Quickly arranged the ransom money. After 11 days of abduction, they released me after paying five lakh taka. They shared the money in front of me near the camp.'

He also said, 'Sometimes my eyes were opened while I was on the top of the mountain. At that time I used to see that they were 12-14 in number. Nine mm pistols for everyone. They had enough ammunition with them. Four/five people had two weapons each.'

Where is Al-Yaqin's network?

People around the Rohingya camp in Cox's Bazar told Dhaka Post that most of the members of this force are located in Shalbon and Kutupalong camps. Currently, there are Al-Yaqin members in every Rohingya camp. Allegedly, they lure the women of the camp with huge sums of money and make themselves sources. The terrorists of this force also used them for kidnapping and drug trafficking.

They were given food once a day. Most of the time there was water and crackers. On the other hand, brutal torture continued throughout the day. They were stripped completely naked and beaten with sticks. A knife was held at the throat, sometimes blood was drawn out with a fist. He used to stick a pistol on his neck and head and hit him with a butt. Blank shots were fired in the sky to show fear. At that time, they said that if they do not pay the ransom money, they will kill them immediately. They called the family only when the victim started crying for survival

Dhaka Post spoke to several Rohingyas from Kutupalong camp. They said that most of the people in the camp want peace. They move according to the instructions of Bangladesh law and order forces. However, several terrorist organizations, including Al-Yaqin, are causing unrest in the camp. Not only Bangladeshis, Rohingyas are also being tortured by them. Al-Yaqin was responsible for the horrific fire that broke out at the Balukhali camp in Ukhia in March this year. They burned the houses of Rohingyas in order to dominate.

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They also said that the organization (Al-Yaqin) is currently recruiting women members. They inform the leaders of the organization about various information about the camp. In addition, the beautiful female members of Al-Yaqin were brought to the camp by influencing the local wealthy (Bangladeshi) in various ways. Later they were abducted from the camp. They get 10,000 rupees for this work.

Dhaka Post talked to some of the abducted victims. Without revealing their names, they said that they were taken to secluded hills near Shal Bagan, Shaplapur Hills, Jimongkhali Hills, Palangkhali, Kutupalong Camp and Mina Bazar in Teknaf. These hills are more secluded than other areas, wild elephants roam. Because of this, no one goes there out of fear. Law and order forces often do not dare to raid these areas. In the last five years, RAB-Police conducted a joint operation there only once or twice. Because of this, the terrorists of Al-Yaqin consider these mountains safe.



file image

I had a grocery store. I told them, I can't pay five lakh rupees. They made me stand naked for a day. They forbade me to defecate until the ransom was paid. When I could not hold back, I was brutally beaten with a stick

Torture like on the top of the mountain

After the abduction, the victims were blindfolded and taken to a secluded mountain. After climbing the mountain, their feet were also tied. There they are kept in a hole three to four feet deep. Open sky overhead. Stay there come rain or shine. The abductors stayed in the hut next door.

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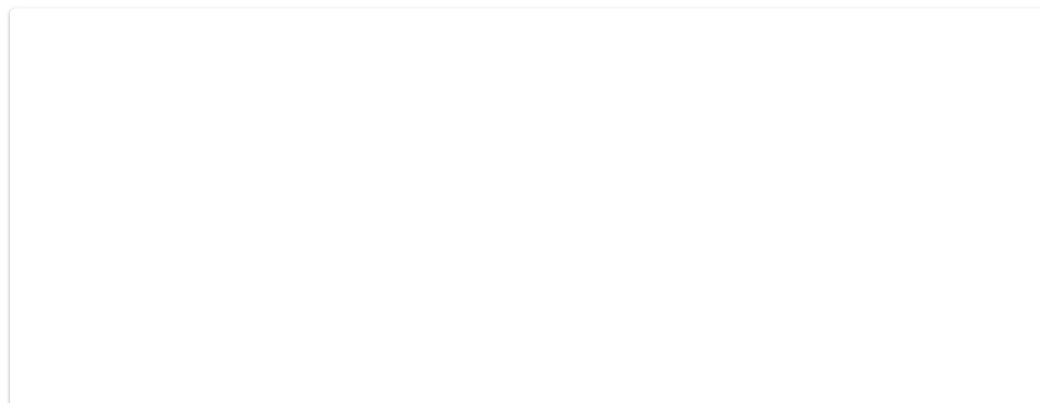
They were given food once a day. Most of the time there was water and crackers. On the other hand, brutal torture continued throughout the day. They were stripped completely naked and beaten with sticks. A knife was held at the throat, sometimes blood was drawn out with a fist. He used to stick a pistol on his neck and head and hit him with a butt. Blank shots were fired in the sky to show fear. At that time, they said that if they do not pay the ransom money, they will kill them immediately. They called the family only when the victim started crying for survival.

One such victim, who did not disclose his name, told Dhaka Post, 'I had a grocery shop. I told them, I can't pay five lakh rupees. They made me stand naked for a day. They forbade me to defecate until the ransom was paid. I was brutally beaten with a stick when I could not hold back.'

I have treated five/six women who were raped by them in the last few months. All of them said that the members of Al-Yaqin destroyed them. There is not much movement of the members of the law and order forces inside the camp. Al-Yaqin gets the opportunity to do whatever he wants in this opportunity. If desired, they rape women in front of family members. Most recently in May, a Rohingya woman who was raped by Al-Yaqin members, later became pregnant, was treated by me and had an abortion by an anonymous GP.

PROMOTED CONTENT

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No one wants to open their mouths about Al-Yaqin, an armed organization that is causing terror in Rohingya camps. No one dares to say anything for fear of killing them. Many Rohingya women are being raped by them. Later, in a state of stupor, they resorted to the village doctor around the camp. Many have been forced to get pregnant, many have had abortions.

A local doctor in Teknaf, who has performed unwanted abortions on many women, told Dhaka Post on condition of anonymity, "I had heard about Al-Yaqin's ruthless brutality long ago. Never seen them with my own eyes. However, in the last few months, I have treated five/six women who were raped by them. All of them said that the members of Al-Yaqin destroyed them. There is not much movement of the members of the law and order forces inside the camp. Al-Yaqin gets the opportunity to do whatever he wants in this opportunity. If desired, they rape women in front of family members. Most recently in May, a Rohingya woman who was raped by Al-Yaqin members, later became pregnant, sought treatment from me and had an abortion.

To rescue the son, I contacted many people including the member-chairman of the area. However, they did not agree to leave their son without money. On top of the mountain they (al-Yaqin) have built barbed wire fences, carry large weapons.

So the police did not dare to go there

Police raid on a deserted hill, found buried body

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According to local police sources, in April 2020, one day laborer and two farmers (jumchashi) were taken away from Jimongkhali in Teknaf by armed members of Al-Yaqin. They demanded a total ransom of 20 lakh rupees from their families. At that time, the then Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Teknaf Pradip Kumar Das raided several hills including Unchiprang, Minabazar, Jimongkhali to rescue them. But they could not be rescued. Later, two farmers returned after paying a ransom of three lakh rupees. But the day laborer's family could not pay, so he was killed. Later his dead body was found in the hill of Jimongkhali.

A victim father, hiding his identity, told Dhaka Post the story of getting his son back from the hands of Al-Yaqin. "My son was kidnapped by members of Al-Yaqin in May," he said. Then he demanded 10 lakhs from me. We have told police, RAB. But no one could rescue my son. Later after paying five lakh rupees step by step through Bikash, they left my son on a deserted road. APBN rescued him.

According to the local police and armed police battalion, deadly firearms like SBBL (single barrel gun), nine mm pistol, three not three rifles, one shooter and even AK-47 were found in Rohingya camps in Teknaf and Cox's Bazar. Sometimes some weapons are also caught , he added, 'Al-Yaqin members have their own sources in Cox's Bazar. They lured the victims to the Rohingya camp area in various ways. Later handed over to the members of Al-Yaqin. They get a certain amount of money for this work. From there the victim was taken at gunpoint to the secluded hills of Shalban. To rescue the son, I contacted many people including the member-chairman of the area. However, they did not agree to leave their son without money. On top of the mountain they (al-Yaqin) have built barbed wire fences, carry large weapons. That's why even the police don't dare to go there.'

The name of path is the one kilometer road between Shaplapur-Huingchong

Talking to Dhaka Post, two kidnap victims and two CNG drivers said that the one kilometer Baradala road between Shaplapur and Huingchong on the way from Cox's Bazar to Teknaf is very dangerous. Al-Yaqin members have a lot of traffic here. They often kidnap CNG autorickshaws or motorcycles here.

The road is also known as 'Sonali Bank'. A CNG driver named Alam told Dhaka Post, 'In addition to kidnapping, ransom money is also collected on this road. Al-Yaqin members ask the victim's family to come here to pay the ransom after the kidnapping. They keep local school children standing here. The victim's family members gave money to the students. That money goes to the kidnapers. After confirming the receipt of money from the camp, the victim was released.'

They vandalized the camp. beat us No one dares protest. If you protest, they will slaughter you. Once a person's body and head were recovered from two places in the mountains. We came to Bangladesh for peace. There is no peace here because of the terrorists. The weapons in the hands of a Rohingya Al-Yakin member of Unchiprang camp who remain anonymous.

Locals of Cox's Bazar (Bangladeshi) say they have seen sophisticated weapons in the Rohingya camps of Cox's Bazar and Teknaf. They are illegally imported from Myanmar. The matter has also been admitted by the local police. However, no one has got an answer to the question of how the weapons are entering through the border.

According to the local police and armed police battalion, deadly firearms like SBBL (single barrel gun), nine mm pistol, three not three rifles, one shooter and even AK-47 were found in Rohingya camps in Teknaf and Cox's Bazar. Sometimes some weapons are also caught.

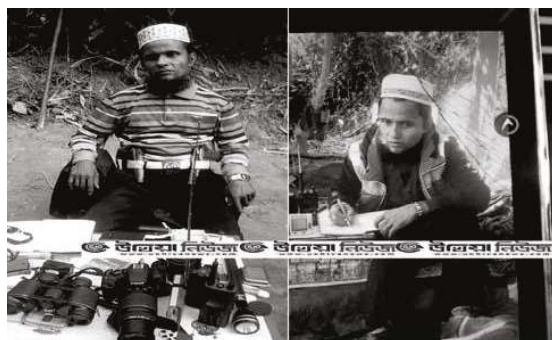
According to Teknaf police station, Rohingya terrorists often have gunfights with them. Besides, based on specific information, the police often conduct raids and recover these weapons.

According to the permanent residents of Cox's Bazar, Abdul Hakeem alias Hakeem Dakat is running the armed organization Al-Yaqin. He was not caught even after several raids. Police also have weapons like AK 47.

If we say anything to them, they will slaughter us.

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Many Rohingyas in Unchiprang camp have seen the inactivity of Al-Yaqin members in the Rohingya camp. One of them, hiding his identity, told Dhaka Post that they vandalized the camp. beat us No one dares protest. If you protest, they will slaughter you. Once a person's body and head were recovered from two places in the mountains. We came to Bangladesh for peace. There is no peace here because of terrorists.



Dakat Hakim

According to the permanent residents of Cox's Bazar, Abdul Hakeem alias Hakeem Dakat is running the armed organization Al-Yaqin. The police could not catch him even after several raids.

Currently, there are 12 groups active in Rohingya camps. Among them, Munna Group, Anas Group, Mahad Group, Salman Shah Group, Hafeez Ahmad Group, Hakeem Dakat Group, Nur Alam Bahini, Zakir Dakat Group are mentioned as 'terrorist groups' and dozens more terrorist

groups active in Rohingya camps

According to law enforcement agencies, a total of 12 groups are currently active in Rohingya camps. Among them, Munna Group, Anas Group, Mahad Group, Salman Shah Group, Hafeez Ahmad Group, Hakeem Dakat Group, Noor Alam Bahini, Zakir Dakat Group have been mentioned as 'terrorist groups'.

The Rohingyas of the camp said that Ataulah's Army, RSO, RRSO are currently working there.

At least 12 armed groups, including al-Yaqin, are active in Rohingya camps, law enforcement officials say

Such organization does not exist in the camp: claims of the police, but...

The DIG of Chittagong Range of Bangladesh Police claimed to Dhaka Post that there is no existence of extremist organizations like Al-Yakin or Arsa based in Rohingya camps. Anwar Hossain. He said, 'No such organization exists. Still we will look into the matter.'

Extremist organizations such as Al-Yaqin or Arsa, centered on Rohingya camps, do not exist. Still we will look into the matter

Chittagong Range DIG Md. Anwar Hossain,

however, announced a reward for the arrest of former Cox's Bazar Superintendent of Police (SP) ABM Masud Hossain 'Abdul Hakim' alias 'Hakim Dakat' in July 2020.

Who is this Hakim Dakat?

Rohingya brutal robber Abdul Hakim. He grew up through cattle smuggling. He used to bring cattle consignments from Myanmar to Bangladesh. Studied up to matric in Myanmar. Later he got involved in Yaba and arms trade. With the blessing of special circles in Cox's Bazar region, Dakat Bahini was once established in Bangladesh and Myanmar. The name of Abdul Hakim is the personification of fear for the residents of the hilly areas of Teknaf, the border town of Cox's Bazar and the Myanmar border area.

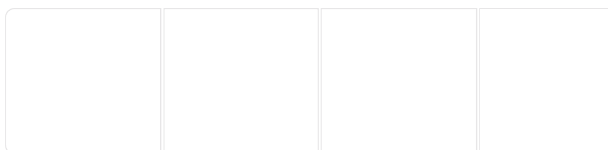
Abdul Hakeem aka Hakeem Dakat. The people of Cox's Bazar claim that the armed organization Al-Yakin is being managed by him

. Two centuries ago, Hakeem killed an officer of Myanmar law enforcement and left the country, fled and took refuge in Teknaf. He brought his wife and children and five brothers with him. Allegedly, Hakeem and his family members created voter ID along with birth certificate with false information in Qutubdia Island. Hakim married Ismat Ara Begum, daughter of Zaheer Ahmad alias Gach Zaheer of Mistripara, Shahpari Island, Teknaf. Besides, he has multiple marriages.

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Hakeem Dakat managed to escape when the police raided their hideout on June 26 last year. At that time four people including his two brothers Bashir Ahmed and Abdul Hamid were killed in the gunfight. Earlier, another of his brothers, brother-in-law and wife died in a shootout with the police.

In the old Pallan neighborhood of Teknaf Municipal area, he occupied the forest land and built a huge building at the cost of crores of rupees. Now it is in the possession of law and order forces. Allegedly, Dakat Hakeem killed Selim alias Mundi Selim on June 12, 2015. A person named Nurul Kabir was also killed by the members of his forces. Noor Hafez son of Nurul Haque, a resident of Mangdu, Myanmar, who took refuge in Bangladesh, and Tofail, son of deceased Mohammad Kashim of Nightongpara, are accused of killing after abduction. There are also numerous allegations of rape. Source: Dhaka Post



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উখিয়া – টেকনাফে মুর্তিমান আতঙ্ক ‘আল-ইয়াকিন’

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বাংলাদেশীদের অপহরণ করে নিয়ে যাওয়া হয় কক্সবাজারের নির্জন পাহাড়ে। সেখানে হাত-পা ও চোখ বেঁধে চলে নির্মম নির্যাতন। এরপর টাকা নিয়ে ছেড়ে দেওয়া হয়। সময় মতো টাকা না দিলে পাহাড়ে গর্ত করে পুঁতে ফেলার নজিরও স্থাপন করেছে এ বাহিনী। কক্সবাজারে রোহিঙ্গা নিয়ন্ত্রিত সশস্ত্র বাহিনীটির নাম হারাকা আল-ইয়াকিন’।

বর্তমানে রোহিঙ্গাসহ স্থানীয় বাংলাদেশীদের মধ্যে ত্রাস সৃষ্টি করেছে এ বাহিনীর সদস্যরা। কক্সবাজারে আরাকান রোহিঙ্গা স্যালভেশন আর্মি (আরসা) নামেও এরা পরিচিত। কক্সবাজারবাসী একে ‘জঙ্গি বাহিনী’ বলেও আখ্যা দিয়েছেন।

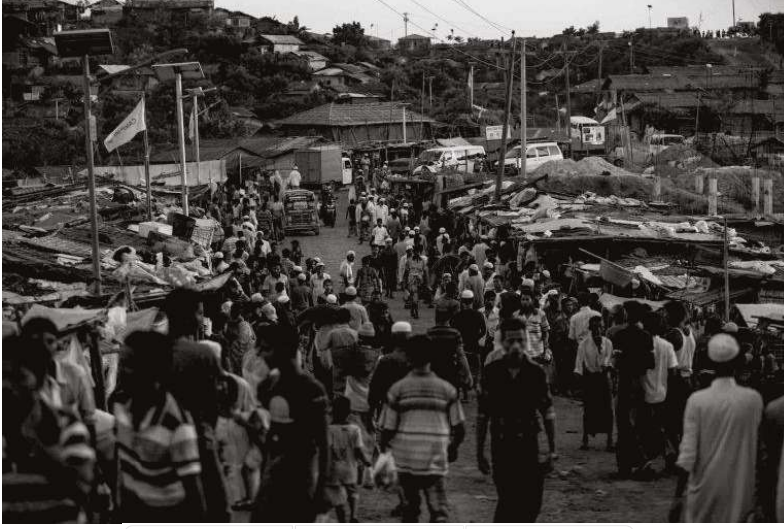


টাকা পোস্টের অনুসন্ধানে জানা গেছে, কক্সবাজারে বর্তমানে আল-ইয়াকিনের প্রায় দুই হাজার সদস্য রয়েছে। দেড়শ’র মতো নারী সদস্যও রয়েছে তাদের। কক্সবাজার ও টেকনাফের প্রতিটি রোহিঙ্গা ক্যাম্পে ছড়িয়ে-ছিটিয়ে আছে তারা। তবে কুতুপালং ও বালুখালিতে তাদের সদস্য সংখ্যা বেশি।

কক্সবাজারে বর্তমানে আল-ইয়াকিনের প্রায় দুই হাজার সদস্য রয়েছে। দেড়শ’র মতো নারী সদস্যও রয়েছে তাদের। কক্সবাজার ও টেকনাফের প্রতিটি রোহিঙ্গা ক্যাম্পে ছড়িয়ে-ছিটিয়ে আছে তারা। তবে কুতুপালং ও বালুখালিতে তাদের সদস্য সংখ্যা বেশি

নিজ দেশ মিয়ানমার থেকে রোহিঙ্গাদের বাস্তুহীন হওয়ার অন্যতম কারণ ছিল দেশটির সেনাবাহিনীর ওপর হামলা। ওই হামলার সঙ্গে জড়িত ছিল আরাকান রোহিঙ্গা স্যালভেশন আর্মি (আরসা)। এখন তারা বাংলাদেশেও আধিপত্য বিস্তার করছে। এছাড়া রোহিঙ্গা ক্যাম্পের ভেতরে মাদক বিক্রি, মানবপাচার, অপহরণের পর মুক্তিপণ আদায়, ডাকাতি ও মাদকের টাকায় আয়োজিত সংগ্রহের কাজ করছে ‘আল-ইয়াকিন’।

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২০১৯ সালের সেপ্টেম্বরে টেকনাফ উপজেলার ফীলা ইউনিয়নের ৯ নম্বর ওয়ার্ড যুবলীগের সভাপতি মোহাম্মদ ওমর ফারুককে (৩০) গুলি করে হত্যা করা হয়। প্রথমে জানা যায়, স্থানীয় এক ডাকাত দল এ হত্যাকাণ্ডের সঙ্গে জড়িত। পরে জানা যায়, ওই হত্যাকাণ্ডের পেছনে ছিল আল-ইয়াকিনের সন্ত্রাসীরা। তাদের দুই সদস্য অবশ্য পুলিশের সঙ্গে বন্দুকযুদ্ধে নিহত হন।

কক্সবাজার পুলিশের দায়িত্বশীল একটি সূত্র জানায়, গত কয়েক বছরে আল-ইয়াকিনের হাতে কমপক্ষে ২৫ রোহিঙ্গা ও বাংলাদেশি নাগরিক খুন হয়েছেন। প্রায়ই স্থানীয়দের (বাংলাদেশি) অপহরণ করে তারা। নির্জন পাহাড়ে নিয়ে মুক্তিপণ আদায়ের সংবাদও শোনা যায়। ভুক্তভোগী এমন বেশ কয়েকটি পরিবারের অভিযোগের ভিত্তিতে পুলিশ পাহাড়ে অভিযান চালায়। তবে এখন পর্যন্ত এ চক্রের একজন সদস্যকেও গ্রেফতার করতে পারেনি আইনশৃঙ্খলা রক্ষাকারী বাহিনী।

ঢাকা পোস্টের কাছে আসা তাদের একটি ভিডিওতে আল-ইয়াকিনের নেতারা দাবি করেন, চট্টগ্রাম ও কক্সবাজার আরাকানের অংশ। তারা এতদিন মিয়ানমারের রাখাইনে ছিলেন। এখন তাদের আরেক রাজ্য কক্সবাজারে এসেছেন। তারা এখানেই থাকবেন, রোহিঙ্গাদের দাবি আদায়ে কক্সবাজারের নিয়ন্ত্রণ নেবেন

২০১৯ সালে টেকনাফের বাহারছড়া টইগ্যা পাহাড়সহ বেশ কয়েকটি দুর্গম পাহাড়ে জ্বোন দিয়েও অভিযান চালায় র্যাপিড অ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন (র্যাব)। তবে তাদের অবস্থান শনাক্ত করা যায়নি।



কী চায় আল-ইয়াকিন

ঢাকা পোস্টের সঙ্গে এ বাহিনীর কোনো সদস্যের সরাসরি কথা না হলেও ইউটিউবে তাদের বেশ কয়েকজন নেতা নিয়মিত ভিডিও প্রচার করেন। এসব ভিডিওর ব্যাকগ্রাউন্ডে (পারিপার্শ্বিক অবস্থা) নির্জন পাহাড় ও অস্ত্র দেখা যায়। তবে সেগুলো বাংলাদেশে বারণকৃত কি না, তা নিশ্চিত হওয়া যায়নি।

ঢাকা পোস্টের কাছে আসা তাদের একটি ভিডিওতে আল-ইয়াকিনের নেতারা দাবি করেন, চট্টগ্রাম ও কক্সবাজার আরাকানের অংশ। তারা এতদিন মিয়ানমারের রাখাইনে ছিলেন। এখন তাদের আরেক রাজ্য কক্সবাজারে এসেছেন। তারা এখানেই থাকবেন,

রোহিঙ্গাদের দাবি আদায়ে কক্সবাজারের নিয়ন্ত্রণ নেবেন।

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আমাকে লেদা রোহিঙ্গা ক্যাম্প থেকে অপহরণ করা হয়। তারা আমার চোখ বেঁধে শালবন পাহাড়ের চূড়ায় নিয়ে যায়। সেখানে দিনে দু-তিনবার মারধর করা হতো, পরনের কাপড় খুলে নির্মমভাবে পেটানো হতো।
কামরুল হাসান, ভুক্তভোগী সিএনজিচালক
বিভিন্ন ভিডিওতে রোহিঙ্গাদের দাবি আদায়ের কথা বললেও ক্যাম্পের ভেতরে খোদ রোহিঙ্গাদের নির্যাতন ও ধর্ষণের সঙ্গে জড়িত আল-ইয়াকিনের সন্ত্রাসীরা।



স্থানীয়দের মুখে আল-ইয়াকিনের ভয়াবহতা

কক্সবাজার জেলার সবচেয়ে বড় ইউনিয়ন শাপলাপুর। মহেশখালী উপজেলার অধীন এটি। শাপলাপুর থেকে এখন পর্যন্ত অনেককে অপহরণ করে মুক্তিপণ আদায় করে এ বাহিনীর সদস্যরা। মুক্তিপণ দিয়ে ফিরে আসা এমন চার ভুক্তভোগীর সঙ্গে কথা হয় ঢাকা পোস্টের। তাদের একজন স্থানীয় ব্যবসায়ী। নাম প্রকাশে অনিচ্ছুক এ ব্যবসায়ী জানান, জুনের দ্বিতীয় সপ্তাহে টেকনাফের লেদা রোহিঙ্গা ক্যাম্পের সামনে থেকে তাকে তুলে নিয়ে যাওয়া হয়। প্রায় ১৫ দিন পর মুক্তিপণের পাঁচ লাখ টাকা দিয়ে তাকে ফিরিয়ে আনে পরিবার।

চলতি বছরের ১৯ মে টেকনাফ থেকে কামরুল হাসান নামের এক সিএনজিচালককে অপহরণ করে আল-ইয়াকিনের সদস্যরা। তিনি ঢাকা পোস্টকে বলেন, আমাকে লেদা রোহিঙ্গা ক্যাম্প থেকে অপহরণ করা হয়। তারা আমার চোখ বেঁধে শালবন পাহাড়ের চূড়ায় নিয়ে যায়। সেখানে দিনে দু-তিনবার মারধর করা হতো, পরনের কাপড় খুলে নির্মমভাবে পেটানো হতো।’

নাম প্রকাশ না করে কুতুবালং ক্যাম্পের বেশ কয়েকজন রোহিঙ্গা জানান, ক্যাম্পের অধিকাংশ মানুষই শান্তি চান। তারা বাংলাদেশের আইনশৃঙ্খলা বাহিনীর নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী চলাফেরা করেন। তবে আল-ইয়াকিনসহ বেশ কয়েকটি সন্ত্রাসী সংগঠন ক্যাম্পে অশান্তি সৃষ্টি করছে। শুধু বাংলাদেশ নয়, রোহিঙ্গারাও তাদের হাতে নির্যাতিত হচ্ছেন। চলতি বছরের মার্চে উখিয়ার বালুখালি ক্যাম্পে ভয়াবহ যে আগুনের ঘটনা ঘটে তা ছিল আল-ইয়াকিনের কাজ। আধিপত্য বিস্তারকে কেন্দ্র করে তারা রোহিঙ্গাদের ঘর পুড়িয়ে দেয়

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‘আমাকে দিয়ে বাবাকে প্রতিদিন ফোন দিত তারা। মুক্তিপণ হিসেবে ১০ লাখ টাকা দাবি করে। বাবাকে ফোন দিয়ে তারা ফাঁকা গুলি ছুড়ে শব্দ শোনাতে, যাতে তিনি ভয় পান। দ্রুত মুক্তিপণের টাকার ব্যবস্থা করেন। অপহরণের ১১ দিনের মাথায় পাঁচ লাখ টাকা দিলে তারা আমাকে ছেড়ে দেয়। ক্যাম্পের কাছে আমার সামনেই তারা টাকাগুলো ভাগ করে নেয়।’

তিনি আরও বলেন, ‘পাহাড়ের চূড়ায় থাকারস্থায় মাঝেমধ্যে আমার চোখ খুলে দেয়া হতো। সেসময় দেখতাম, তারা সংখ্যায় ১২-১৪ জন। সবার কাছে নাইন এমএম পিস্তল। পর্যাপ্ত গুলিও থাকত তাদের সঙ্গে। চার/পাঁচজনের কাছে দুটা করে অস্ত্র থাকত।’

কোথায় কোথায় আল-ইয়াকিনের নেটওয়ার্ক

কক্সবাজারের রোহিঙ্গা ক্যাম্পের আশপাশের লোকজন ঢাকা পোস্টকে জানান, শালবন ও কুতুপালং ক্যাম্পে এ বাহিনীর অধিকাংশ সদস্যের অবস্থান। বর্তমানে রোহিঙ্গাদের প্রতিটি ক্যাম্পে আল-ইয়াকিনের সদস্যরা আছে। অভিযোগ আছে, তারা ক্যাম্পের নারীদের মোটা অঙ্কের অর্থের লোভ দেখিয়ে নিজেদের সোর্স বানায়। তাদের দিয়ে অপহরণ ও মাদকপাচারের কাজও করায় এ বাহিনীর সন্ত্রাসীরা।

দিনে একবেলা তাদের খাবার দেওয়া হতো। অধিকাংশ সময় মিলত চিড়া-মুড়ি আর পানি। অন্যদিকে, সারাদিন চলত পাশবিক নির্যাতন। পুরোপুরি উলঙ্গ করে লাঠি দিয়ে পেটানো হতো। গলায় ছুরি ধরা হতো, মাঝেমধ্যে হাতে পৌঁচ দিয়ে রক্ত বের করে দিত। ঘাড়ে ও মাথায় পিস্তল ঠেকাত, বাট দিয়ে আঘাতও করত। ভয় দেখাতে আকাশে ফাঁকা গুলি ছুড়ত। এ সময় তারা বলত, মুক্তিপণের টাকা না দিলে এখনই মেরে ফেলবে। বাঁচার জন্য ভুক্তভোগী যখন কান্না শুরু করত তখনই তারা পরিবারের কাছে ফোন দিত

কুতুপালং ক্যাম্পের বেশ কয়েকজন রোহিঙ্গার সঙ্গে কথা হয় ঢাকা পোস্টের। পরিচয় গোপন করে তারা জানান, ক্যাম্পের অধিকাংশ মানুষই শান্তি চান। তারা বাংলাদেশের আইনশৃঙ্খলা বাহিনীর নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী চলাফেরা করেন। তবে আল-ইয়াকিনসহ বেশ কয়েকটি সন্ত্রাসী সংগঠন ক্যাম্পে অশান্তি সৃষ্টি করছে। শুধু বাংলাদেশ নয়, রোহিঙ্গারাও তাদের হাতে নির্যাতিত হচ্ছেন। চলতি বছরের মার্চে উখিয়ার বালুখালি ক্যাম্পে ভয়াবহ যে আগুনের ঘটনা ঘটে তা ছিল আল-ইয়াকিনের কাজ। আধিপত্য বিস্তারকে কেন্দ্র করে তারা রোহিঙ্গাদের ঘর পুড়িয়ে দেয়।

তারা আরও জানান, সংগঠনটি (আল-ইয়াকিন) বর্তমানে নারী সদস্য নিয়োগ দিচ্ছে। ক্যাম্পের নানা তথ্য তারা সংগঠনের নেতাদের জানিয়ে দেয়। এছাড়া স্থানীয় বিত্তশালীদের (বাংলাদেশি) বিভিন্নভাবে প্রভাবিত করে ক্যাম্পে নিয়ে আসে আল-ইয়াকিনের সুন্দরী নারী সদস্যরা। পরে তাদের ক্যাম্প থেকে অপহরণ করা হয়। এ কাজের জন্য ১০ হাজার করে টাকা পায় তারা।

এভাবে অপহরণের শিকার কয়েকজন ভুক্তভোগীর সঙ্গে কথা হয় ঢাকা পোস্টের। নাম প্রকাশ না করে তারা জানান, টেকনাফের শাল বাগান, শাপলাপুর পাহাড়, জিমখালি পাহাড়, পালংখালি, কুতুপালং ক্যাম্প ও মিনা বাজার সংলগ্ন নির্জন পাহাড়ে নিয়ে যাওয়া হতো তাদের। এসব পাহাড় অন্যান্য এলাকার চেয়ে বেশ নির্জন, বন্য হাতি চলাফেরা করে। এ কারণে ভয়ে ওদিকে কেউ যায় না। আইনশৃঙ্খলা বাহিনীও সচরাচর এসব এলাকায় অভিযান চালাতে সাহস দেখায় না। গত পাঁচ বছরে র‍্যাব-পুলিশ মাত্র দু-একবার সেখানে যৌথ অভিযান চালায়। এ কারণে এসব পাহাড় নিরাপদ মনে করে আল-ইয়াকিনের সন্ত্রাসীরা।



ফাইল ছবি

আমার মুদি দোকান ছিল। তাদের বলেছিলাম, পাঁচ লাখ টাকা দিতে পারব না। তারা আমাকে উলঙ্গ করে একদিন দাঁড় করিয়ে রাখে। মুক্তিপণের টাকা না দেওয়া পর্যন্ত তারা আমাকে প্রস্রাব-পায়খানা করতে বাধ্য করে। যখন চেপে ধরতে পারতাম না তখন লাঠি দিয়ে নির্মমভাবে আমাকে পেটানো হতো

পাহাড়ের চূড়ায় যেভাবে চলে নির্বাতন

অপহরণের পরই ভুক্তভোগীদের চোখ-মুখ ও হাত বেঁধে নির্জন পাহাড়ে নেওয়া হয়। পাহাড়ে ওঠার পর তাদের পাও বেঁধে ফেলা হয়। সেখানে তিন-চার ফিট গভীর গর্তে রাখা হয় তাদের। মাথার ওপরে খোলা আকাশ। রোদ-ঝড়-বৃষ্টি যা-ই হোক না কেন সেখানেই থাকতে হয়। পাশের বুপড়ি ঘরে অবস্থান করতেন অপহরণকারীরা।

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দিনে একবেলা তাদের খাবার দেওয়া হতো। অধিকাংশ সময় মিলত চিড়া-মুড়ি আর পানি। অন্যদিকে, সারাদিন চলত পাশবিক নির্যাতন। পুরোপুরি উলঙ্গ করে লাঠি দিয়ে পেটানো হতো। গলায় ছুরি ধরা হতো, মাঝেমাঝে হাতে পৌঁচ দিয়ে রক্ত বের করে দিত। ঘাড়ে ও মাথায় পিস্তল ঠেকাত, বাট দিয়ে আঘাতও করত। ভয় দেখাতে আকাশে ফাঁকা গুলি ছুড়ত। এ সময় তারা বলত, মুক্তিপণের টাকা না দিলে এখনই মেরে ফেলবে। বাঁচার জন্য ভুক্তভোগী যখন কান্না শুরু করত তখনই তারা পরিবারের কাছে ফোন দিত।

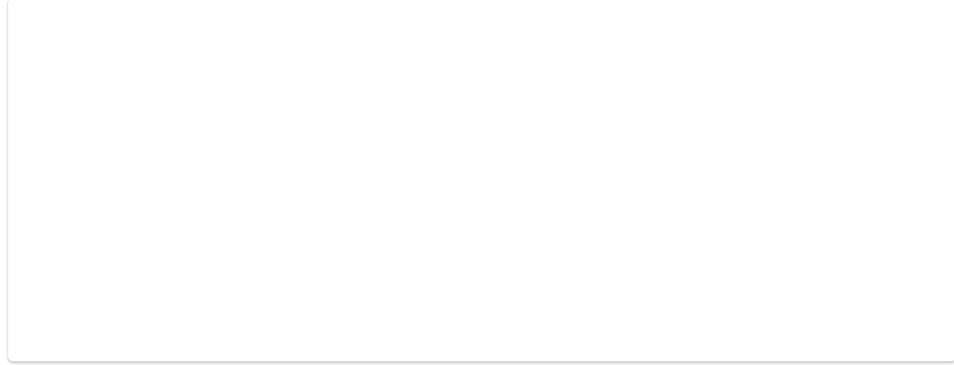
এমন একজন ভুক্তভোগী নাম প্রকাশ না করে ঢাকা পোস্টকে বলেন, ‘আমার মুদি দোকান ছিল। তাদের বলেছিলাম, পাঁচ লাখ টাকা দিতে পারব না। তারা আমাকে উলঙ্গ করে একদিন দাঁড় করিয়ে রাখে। মুক্তিপণের টাকা না দেওয়া পর্যন্ত তারা আমাকে প্রসাব-পায়খানা করতে বারণ করে। যখন চেপে ধরতে পারতাম না তখন লাঠি দিয়ে নির্মমভাবে আমাকে পেটানো হতো।’

গত কয়েক মাসে তাদের হাতে ধর্ষণের শিকার পাঁচ/ছয় নারীর চিকিৎসা করেছে। তাদের সবার বক্তব্য হলো, আল-ইয়াকিনের সদস্যরা তাদের সর্বনাশ করেছে। ক্যাম্পের ভেতরে আইনশৃঙ্খলা বাহিনীর সদস্যদের তেমন বিচরণ নেই। এ সুযোগে যা ইচ্ছা তাই করার সুযোগ পায় আল-ইয়াকিন। ইচ্ছা হলে তারা পরিবারের সদস্যদের সামনেই নারীদের ধর্ষণ করে। সর্বশেষ মে মাসে আল-ইয়াকিন সদস্যদের হাতে ধর্ষণের শিকার, পরে গর্ভবতী হওয়া এক রোহিঙ্গা নারী আমার কাছে চিকিৎসা নিয়েছেন এবং গর্ভপাত করিয়েছেন

নাম প্রকাশ না করে এক পল্লীচিকিৎসক

PROMOTED CONTENT

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রোহিঙ্গা ক্যাম্পে ত্রাস সৃষ্টি করা সশস্ত্র সংগঠন আল-ইয়াকিন সম্পর্কে মুখ খুলতে চান না কেউই। যদি তারা খুন করে ফেলে— এ ভয়ে কেউ কিছু বলার সাহস দেখান না। প্রতিনিয়ত তাদের হাতে ধর্ষণের শিকার হচ্ছেন অসংখ্য রোহিঙ্গা নারী। পরে মুমূর্ষু অবস্থায় ক্যাম্পের আশপাশের পল্লীচিকিৎসকের শরণাপন্ন হন তারা। অনেকে বাধ্য হয়ে গর্ভবতী হয়েছেন, অনেকে আবার গর্ভপাতও করিয়েছেন।

অসংখ্য নারীর অনাকাঙ্ক্ষিত গর্ভপাত করানো টেকনাফের এক পল্লীচিকিৎসক পরিচয় গোপন করে ঢাকা পোস্টকে বলেন, অনেক আগে থেকেই আল-ইয়াকিনের নির্মম বর্বরতার কথা শুনেছিলাম। কখনও নিজ চোখে তাদের দেখিনি। তবে গত কয়েক মাসে তাদের হাতে ধর্ষণের শিকার পাঁচ/ছয় নারীর চিকিৎসা করেছে। তাদের সবার বক্তব্য হলো, আল-ইয়াকিনের সদস্যরা তাদের সর্বনাশ করেছে। ক্যাম্পের ভেতরে আইনশৃঙ্খলা বাহিনীর সদস্যদের তেমন বিচরণ নেই। এ সুযোগে যা ইচ্ছা তাই করার সুযোগ পায় আল-ইয়াকিন। ইচ্ছা হলে তারা পরিবারের সদস্যদের সামনেই নারীদের ধর্ষণ করে। সর্বশেষ মে মাসে আল-ইয়াকিন সদস্যদের হাতে ধর্ষণের শিকার, পরে গর্ভবতী হওয়া এক রোহিঙ্গা নারী আমার কাছে চিকিৎসা নিয়েছেন এবং গর্ভপাত করিয়েছেন।

ছেলেকে উদ্ধারে এলাকার মেঘার-চেয়ারম্যানসহ অনেকে দিয়ে তাদের সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ করি। তবে তারা কোনোভাবেই টাকা ছাড়া ছেলেকে ছাড়তে রাজি হয়নি। পাহাড়ের ওপরে তারা (আল-ইয়াকিন) ঝাঁটাতারের বেড়া তৈরি করেছে, বড় বড় অস্ত্রসস্ত্র নিয়ে থাকে। তাই পুলিশও সেখানে যেতে সাহস দেখায় না

নাম প্রকাশ না করে ভুক্তভোগী এক বাবা

নির্জন পাহাড়ে পুলিশের অভিযান, মিলেছে মাটিচাপা লাশ

স্থানীয় থানা পুলিশ সূত্রে জানা যায়, ২০২০ সালের এপ্রিলে টেকনাফের জীমংখালি থেকে এক দিনমজুর ও দুই কৃষককে (জুমচাষি) তুলে নিয়ে যায় আল-ইয়াকিনের সশস্ত্র সদস্যরা। তারা তাদের পরিবারের কাছে মোট ২০ লাখ টাকা মুক্তিপণ দাবি করে। ওই সময় তাদের উদ্ধারে টেকনাফের তৎকালীন ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তা (ওসি) প্রদীপ কুমার দাস উনচিপ্রাং, মিনাবাজার, জীমংখালিসহ বেশ কয়েকটি পাহাড়ে অভিযান চালান। তবে তাদের উদ্ধার করা যায়নি। পরে তিন লাখ টাকা করে মুক্তিপণ দিয়ে দুজন কৃষক ফিরে আসেন। তবে দিনমজুরের পরিবার টাকা দিতে না পারায় তাকে হত্যা করা হয়। পরে তার মাটিচাপা মরদেহ মেলে জীমংখালির পাহাড়ে।

পরিচয় গোপন করে ভুক্তভোগী এক বাবা আল-ইয়াকিনের হাত থেকে ছেলেকে ফিরে পাওয়ার কাহিনি বলেন ঢাকা পোস্টকে। তিনি বলেন, মে মাসে আল-ইয়াকিনের সদস্যরা আমার ছেলেকে অপহরণ করে। এরপর আমার কাছে ১০ লাখ টাকা দাবি করে। আমরা পুলিশ, র্যাবকে বলেছি। কিন্তু কেউ আমার ছেলেকে উদ্ধার করতে পারেনি। পরে বিকাশের মাধ্যমে ধাপে ধাপে পাঁচ লাখ টাকা দেওয়ার পর তারা আমার ছেলেকে নির্জন রাস্তায় ফেলে যায়। এপিবিএন তাকে উদ্ধার করে।

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স্থানীয় পুলিশ ও আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন জানায়, টেকনাফ ও কক্সবাজারের রোহিঙ্গা ক্যাম্প এসবিবিএল (একনলা বন্দুক), নাইন এমএম পিস্তল, থ্রি নট থ্রি রাইফেল, গুলান শুটারগান, এমনকি একে-৪৭ এর মতো মারাত্মক আগ্নেয়াস্ত্রের সন্ধান পাওয়া গেছে। মাঝেমাঝে কিছু অস্ত্র ধরাও পড়ে তিনি আরও বলেন, ‘কক্সবাজারে আল-ইয়াকিন সদস্যদের নিজস্ব সোর্স থাকে। তারা বিভিন্নভাবে প্রলোভন দেখিয়ে ভুক্তভোগীদের রোহিঙ্গা ক্যাম্প এলাকায় নিয়ে যায়। পরে আল-ইয়াকিনের সদস্যদের হাতে তুলে দেয়। এ কাজে তারা নির্দিষ্ট পরিমাণ টাকা পায়। সেখান থেকে ভুক্তভোগীকে অস্ত্রের মুখে নিয়ে যাওয়া হয় শালবনের নির্জন পাহাড়ে। ছেলেকে উদ্ধারে এলাকার মেসার-চেয়ারম্যানসহ অনেককে দিয়ে তাদের সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ করি। তবে তারা কোনোভাবেই টাকা ছাড়া ছেলেকে ছাড়তে রাজি হয়নি। পাহাড়ের ওপরে তারা (আল-ইয়াকিন) কাঁটাতারের বেড়া তৈরি করেছে, বড় বড় অস্ত্রশস্ত্র নিয়ে থাকে। তাই পুলিশও সেখানে যেতে সাহস দেখায় না।’

আতঙ্কের নাম শাপলাপুর-হইচংয়ের মাঝের এক কিলোমিটার সড়ক

ঢাকা পোস্টের সঙ্গে আলপকালে অপহরণের শিকার দুই ভুক্তভোগী ও দুই সিএনজি চালক জানান, কক্সবাজার থেকে টেকনাফের পথে শাপলাপুর ও হইচংয়ের মাঝের বড়ডালার এক কিলোমিটার সড়কটি অত্যন্ত ঝুঁকিপূর্ণ। এখানে আল-ইয়াকিনের সদস্যদের আনাগোনা বেশি। সিএনজি অটোরিকশা বা মোটরসাইকেল আটকে অহরহ তারা এখানে অপহরণের ঘটনা ঘটায়।

সড়কটি ‘সোনালী ব্যাংক’ নামেও পরিচিত। আলম নামের এক সিএনজিচালক টাকা পোস্টকে বলেন, ‘এ সড়কে অপহরণের পাশাপাশি মুক্তিপণের টাকাও আদায় করা হয়। আল-ইয়াকিনের সদস্যরা অপহরণের পর মুক্তিপণের টাকা দিতে ভুক্তভোগীর পরিবারকে এখানে আসতে বলে। তারা এখানে স্থানীয় স্কুলশিক্ষার্থীদের দাঁড় করিয়ে রাখে। ভুক্তভোগী পরিবারের সদস্যরা শিক্ষার্থীদের হাতে টাকা দেন। সেই টাকা চলে যায় অপহরণকারীদের কাছে। ক্যাম্প থেকে টাকাপ্রাপ্তির বিষয়টি নিশ্চিত হওয়ার পর ভুক্তভোগীকে মুক্তি দেওয়া হয়।’

তারা ক্যাম্পে নাশকতা করে। আমাদের মারধর করে। কেউ প্রতিবাদের সাহস দেখায় না। প্রতিবাদ করলে যে জবাই করে ফেলবে। একবার একজনের শরীর ও মাথা পাহাড়ে দুই স্থান থেকে উদ্ধার করা হয়। আমরা শান্তির জন্য বাংলাদেশে এসেছিলাম। সন্ত্রাসীদের কারণে এখানেও শান্তি মিলছে না নাম প্রকাশ না করে উনচিপ্রাং ক্যাম্পের এক রোহিঙ্গা আল-ইয়াকিন সদস্যদের হাতে যেসব অস্ত্র

কক্সবাজারের স্থানীয়রা (বাংলাদেশি) বলছেন, তারা কক্সবাজার ও টেকনাফের রোহিঙ্গা ক্যাম্পগুলোতে অত্যাধুনিক অস্ত্র দেখেছেন। এগুলো অবৈধভাবে মিয়ানমার থেকে আনা। বিষয়টি স্থানীয় থানা পুলিশও স্বীকার করেছে। তবে সীমান্ত দিয়ে কীভাবে অস্ত্র প্রবেশ করেছে— এ প্রশ্নের উত্তর মেলেনি কারও কাছে।

স্থানীয় পুলিশ ও আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন জানায়, টেকনাফ ও কক্সবাজারের রোহিঙ্গা ক্যাম্প এসবিবিএল (একনলা বন্দুক), নাইন এমএম পিস্তল, থ্রি নট থ্রি রাইফেল, গুলান শুটারগান, এমনকি একে-৪৭ এর মতো মারাত্মক আগ্নেয়াস্ত্রের সন্ধান পাওয়া গেছে। মাঝেমাঝে কিছু অস্ত্র ধরাও পড়ে।

টেকনাফ থানা পুলিশ জানায়, তাদের সঙ্গে প্রায়ই রোহিঙ্গা সন্ত্রাসীদের বন্দুকযুদ্ধের ঘটনা ঘটে। এছাড়া সুনির্দিষ্ট তথ্যের ভিত্তিতে প্রায়ই পুলিশ অভিযান পরিচালনা করে এসব অস্ত্র উদ্ধার করে।

কক্সবাজারের স্থায়ী বাসিন্দাদের দাবি, আব্দুল হাকিম ওরফে হাকিম ডাকাত সশস্ত্র সংগঠন আল-ইয়াকিন পরিচালনা করছেন। তাকে বেশ কয়েকবার অভিযান চালিয়েও ধরতে পারেনি পুলিশ

একে ৪৭-এর মতো মারগান্ত্রও রয়েছে তাদের কাছে

কিছু বললে তারা আমাদের জবাই করে ফেলবে

রোহিঙ্গা ক্যাম্পে আল-ইয়াকিন সদস্যদের অপতৎপরতা দেখেছেন উনচিপ্রাং ক্যাম্পের অনেক রোহিঙ্গা। তাদেরই একজন পরিচয় গোপন করে টাকা পোস্টকে বলেন, তারা ক্যাম্পে নাশকতা করে। আমাদের মারধর করে। কেউ প্রতিবাদের সাহস দেখায় না। প্রতিবাদ করলে যে জবাই করে ফেলবে। একবার একজনের শরীর ও মাথা পাহাড়ে দুই স্থান থেকে উদ্ধার করা হয়। আমরা শান্তির জন্য বাংলাদেশে এসেছিলাম। সন্ত্রাসীদের কারণে এখানেও শান্তি মিলছে না।



ডাকাত হাকিম

কক্সবাজারের স্থায়ী বাসিন্দাদের দাবি, আব্দুল হাকিম ওরফে হাকিম ডাকাত সশস্ত্র সংগঠন আল-ইয়াকিন পরিচালনা করছেন। তাকে বেশ কয়েকবার অভিযান চালিয়েও ধরতে পারেনি পুলিশ।

বর্তমানে রোহিঙ্গা ক্যাম্পগুলোতে মোট ১২টি গ্রুপ সক্রিয় রয়েছে। তাদের মধ্যে মুন্না গ্রুপ, আনাস গ্রুপ, মাহাদ গ্রুপ, সালমান শাহ গ্রুপ, হাফেজ আহমদ গ্রুপ, হাকিম ডাকাত গ্রুপ, নুরে আলম বাহিনী, জকির ডাকাত গ্রুপকে সন্ত্রাসী গোষ্ঠী হিসেবে উল্লেখ করা হয়েছে রোহিঙ্গা ক্যাম্পে সক্রিয় আরও ডজনখানেক সন্ত্রাসী গ্রুপ

আইনশৃঙ্খলা বাহিনীর তথ্য অনুযায়ী, বর্তমানে রোহিঙ্গা ক্যাম্পগুলোতে মোট ১২টি গ্রুপ সক্রিয় রয়েছে। তাদের মধ্যে মুন্না গ্রুপ, আনাস গ্রুপ, মাহাদ গ্রুপ, সালমান শাহ গ্রুপ, হাফেজ আহমদ গ্রুপ, হাকিম ডাকাত

গ্রুপ, নুরে আলম বাহিনী, জকির ডাকাত গ্রুপকে ‘সন্ত্রাসী গোষ্ঠী’ হিসেবে উল্লেখ করা হয়েছে।

ক্যাম্পের রোহিঙ্গারা জানান, সেখানে বর্তমানে আতউল্লাহর বাহিনী, আরএসও, আরআরএসও নামের কয়েকটি সংগঠন সক্রিয়ভাবে কাজ করছে।

রোহিঙ্গা ক্যাম্পগুলোতে আল-ইয়াকিনসহ অন্তত ১২টি সশস্ত্র গ্রুপ সক্রিয় রয়েছে, বলছে আইনশৃঙ্খলা বাহিনী

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ক্যাম্পে এ ধরনের সংগঠনের অস্তিত্ব নেই : দাবি পুলিশের, তবে...

রোহিঙ্গা ক্যাম্পকেন্দ্রিক আল-ইয়াকিন কিংবা আরসার মতো উগ্রবাদী সংগঠনের কোনো অস্তিত্ব নেই বলে ঢাকা পোস্টের কাছে দাবি করেন বাংলাদেশ পুলিশের চট্টগ্রাম রেঞ্জের ডিআইজি মো. আনোয়ার হোসেন। তিনি বলেন, 'এ ধরনের কোনো সংগঠনের অস্তিত্ব নেই। তারপরও আমরা বিষয়টি খতিয়ে দেখব।'

রোহিঙ্গা ক্যাম্পকেন্দ্রিক আল-ইয়াকিন কিংবা আরসার মতো উগ্রবাদী সংগঠনের কোনো অস্তিত্ব নেই। তারপরও আমরা বিষয়টি খতিয়ে দেখব চট্টগ্রাম রেঞ্জের ডিআইজি মো. আনোয়ার হোসেন

তবে ২০২০ সালের জুলাই মাসে কক্সবাজারের সাবেক পুলিশ সুপার (এসপি) এ বি এম মাসুদ হোসেন 'আব্দুল হাকিম' ওরফে 'হাকিম ডাকাত'-কে গ্রেফতারের পুরস্কার ঘোষণা করেছিলেন।

কে এই হাকিম ডাকাত

রোহিঙ্গা দুর্ধর্ষ ডাকাত আবদুল হাকিম। গরু চোরাকারবারির মাধ্যমে তার বেড়ে ওঠা। মিয়ানমার থেকে গরুর চালান আনতেন বাংলাদেশে। মিয়ানমারে ম্যাট্রিক পর্যন্ত পড়ালেখা করেন। পরে জড়িয়ে পড়েন ইয়াবা ও অস্ত্রকারবারে। কক্সবাজার অঞ্চলের বিশেষ মহলের আশীর্বাদে এক সময় বাংলাদেশ ও মিয়ানমারে গড়ে তোলেন ডাকাত বাহিনী। কক্সবাজারের সীমান্ত জনপদ টেকনাফের পাহাড়ি অঞ্চল ও মিয়ানমার সীমান্ত এলাকার বাসিন্দাদের কাছে যুঁতমান আতঙ্কের নাম আবদুল হাকিম।

আব্দুল হাকিম ওরফে হাকিম ডাকাত। কক্সবাজারবাসীর দাবি, সশস্ত্র সংগঠন আল-ইয়াকিন পরিচালনা করছেন তিনি মিয়ানমারের রাশিদং খানার বড়ছড়া গ্রামের জানি আলীর ছেলে তিনি। দুই যুগ আগে হাকিম মিয়ানমারের আইনশৃঙ্খলা বাহিনীর এক কর্মকর্তাকে খুন করে দেশ ছাড়েন, পালিয়ে আশ্রয় নেন টেকনাফে। সঙ্গে নিয়ে আসেন স্ত্রী-সন্তান ও পাঁচ ভাইকে। অভিযোগ আছে, বুকুবিদ্যা দ্বীপে মিথ্যা তথ্য দিয়ে জন্মানিবন্ধনসহ ভোটার আইডি তৈরি করে নেন হাকিম ও তার পরিবারের সদস্যরা। টেকনাফের শাহপারীর দ্বীপের মন্ত্রিপাড়ার জহির আহমদ ওরফে গাছ জহিরের মেয়ে ইসমত আরা বেগমকে বিয়ে করেন হাকিম। এছাড়া একাধিক বিয়ে রয়েছে তার।

গত বছরের ২৬ জুন পুলিশ তাদের আস্তানায় অভিযান চালালে হাকিম ডাকাত পালিয়ে যেতে সক্ষম হন। ওই সময় বন্দুকযুদ্ধে নিহত হন তার দুই ভাই বশির আহমেদ ও আবদুল হামিদসহ চারজন। এর আগে তার আরেক ভাই, শ্যালক ও স্ত্রী পুলিশের সঙ্গে বন্দুকযুদ্ধে মারা যান।

টেকনাফ পৌর এলাকার পুরাতন পল্লান পাড়ায় বনভূমি দখল করে কোটি কোটি টাকা ব্যয়ে গড়েন বিশাল অট্টালিকা। এখন তা আইনশৃঙ্খলা বাহিনীর দখলে। অভিযোগ রয়েছে, ডাকাত হাকিম ২০১৫ সালের ১২ জুন সেলিম ওরফে মুক্তি সেলিমকে হত্যা করেন। নুরুল কবির নামে একজনকেও খুন করেন তার বাহিনীর সদস্যরা। বাংলাদেশে আশ্রয় নেওয়া মিয়ানমারের মংডুর বাসিন্দা নুরুল হকের ছেলে নুর হাফেজ ও নাইট্যংপাড়ার হুত মোহাম্মদ কাশিমের ছেলে তোফায়েলকেও অপহরণের পর হত্যার অভিযোগ রয়েছে এ বাহিনীর সদস্যদের বিরুদ্ধে। রয়েছে অসংখ্য ধর্ষণের অভিযোগও। সূত্র: ঢাকাপোস্ট

Tweet Save

পাঠকের মতামত

| সর্বশেষ | জনপ্রিয় |
|--|----------|
| গণমানুষের কণ্ঠস্বর হয়ে থাকবে সিবিএন- অধ্যাপক আকতার চৌধুরী | |
| রোহিঙ্গা ক্যাম্প মুক্তরাজের পররাষ্ট্র প্রতিমন্ত্রীসহ ৪ প্রতিনিধি | |
| আন্তর্জাতিক সংস্থায় চাকরির সুযোগ, বেতন লাখের বেশি, কর্মস্থল কক্সবাজার | |
| ভোটাররা ভোট দিতে না পারলে আমাদের ব্যর্থতার দায় নিতে হবে: কক্সবাজারে সিইসি | |
| উষ্মায় রাজমিস্ত্রী নির্মান শ্রমিক বহুমুখী সমবায় সমিতির বনভোজন সম্পন্ন | |

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| কক্সবাজারে বেড়েই চলেছে দেশি-বিদেশি ভিআইপিদের আনা-গোনা : প্রশাসনের নতিশ্বাস |
| রোহিঙ্গা ক্যাম্পে এইচআইভি এইডস আক্রান্তের সংখ্যা বাড়ছে |
| এবার পৌঁচার দ্বীপের প্যারাবন আশ্রয় দিয়ে নিধন |
| বর্ষার আগেই রোহিঙ্গা প্রত্যাবাসন শুরু চেষ্টা |
| ফেসবুকে ৯ বছর পর ফিরছে ইন-অ্যাপ মেসেঞ্জার |

সোশ্যাল মিডিয়ায় 'উখিয়া নিউজ ডটকম'



সকল চাকুরির খবর



স্থানীয় পত্রিকা খুঁজছেন?



গণমানুষের কণ্ঠস্বর হয়ে থাকবে সিবিএন- অধ্যাপক আকতার...

কক্সবাজারের প্রথম এবং সর্বাধিক জনপ্রিয় অনলাইন গণমাধ্যম কক্সবাজার নিউজ সিবিএনের

১১/০৩/২০২৩



উখিয়ায় রাজমিস্ত্রী নির্মাণ শ্রমিক বহুমুখী সমবায় সমিতির...

কক্সবাজারের উখিয়া উপজেলা রাজমিস্ত্রী নির্মাণ শ্রমিক বহুমুখী সমবায় সমিতি লিঃ এর বার্ষিক

১১/০৩/২০২৩



রোহিঙ্গা ক্যাম্পে এইচআইভি এইডস আক্রান্তের সংখ্যা...

কক্সবাজারের রোহিঙ্গা শরণার্থী শিবিরে প্রতিন্যূত বাড়ছে এইচআইভি এইডসে আক্রান্ত

১১/০৩/২০২৩



উখিয়ায় ইয়াবাসহ যুবক আটক

কক্সবাজারের উখিয়া অভিযান চালিয়ে ৪ হাজার পিস ইয়াবাসহ কামাল উদ্দিন (৩৫) নামে এক

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| কক্সবাজারে প্রত্যেক গাড়ি চালকের ডাটাবেজ হবে | যে কারণে ইসলামি বক্তার জিহ্বা কেটে দিয়েছিল তারা | সাত উপজেলায় ইউএনও পদে সাত নারী | একটা জীবন রক্ষার গল্প বলি |
|---|--|--|---|
| # অপরাধ ঠেকাতে উদ্যোগ, কিউআর কোডে মিলবে চালকের সব তথ্য কক্সবাজার শহরে | ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়ার আখাউড়ায় ইসলামি বক্তা শরিফুল ইসলাম উইয়ার (৩৬) জিহ্বার একাংশ কেটে দেওয়ার | নাটোরে সাত উপজেলায় নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা (ইউএনও) পদে দায়িত্ব পালন করছেন সাতজন নারী। | প্রিয়াঙ্কা বড়ুয়া আনুমানিক বয়স ৩০ উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্স উখিয়ার ANC কর্নারে এসে হঠাৎ অজ্ঞান |
| ১০/০৩/২০২৩ | ০৯/০৩/২০২৩ | ০৯/০৩/২০২৩ | ০৬/০৩/২০২৩ |



প্রধান পাতা আর্কাইভ জাতীয় আন্তর্জাতিক কক্সবাজার সারা বাংলা বিনোদন শিক্ষা খেলাধুলা

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V. Hölzl, “As Violence Soars in Refugee Camps Rohingya Women Speak Up”, *New Humanitarian*, 2 August 2021

Available at:

<https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news/2021/8/2/as-violence-soars-in-refugee-camps-rohingya-women-speak-up>

The Ukraine effect: Driving up costs, driving away attention.

As violence soars in refugee camps, Rohingya women speak up

'It has just become unbearable.'



on a foggy morning at the Balukhali refugee camp near Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, on 25 December, 2017.



özl

t formerly based in Yangon covering conflict, ement, and politics.

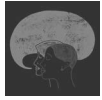
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COX'S BAZAR, Banglades

A climate of fear has spread across Bangladesh's sprawling Rohingya camps as militant groups and criminal gangs compete for control, refugees and humanitarians warn.

Community leaders and
or outspoken about w

hreatened and intimidated for being educated
ative norms to a level of oppression.

Women report being
Rohingya militant g
Others say assaila
night, when there
pm.

or extorted by men they believe are affiliated with
say they have been told not to work outside the home.
rnings. Most say they are afraid to leave their homes at
ment-imposed curfews bar aid workers from staying past 4

For some wom

d fears have reached a point where silence is no longer an option.

"It's happeni
who asked

obody is talking about it," said Mariam, a Rohingya civil society activist,
pseudonym for fear of retaliation.

These th
Myanm
refuge
gover
cam

een an issue in the camps, which are now home to some 900,000 people after a
forced hundreds of thousands of Rohingya from their homes in 2017. But
ups say the violence has reached a crisis point in recent months, partly due to
ed coronavirus restrictions that have shrunk the number of aid staff allowed in the

“It’s happening everywhere, but nobody is talking about it.”

ng threats of severe violence, some Rohingya women have stopped volunteering with aid agencies,
ading to potential shortfalls of teachers and health outreach workers.

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5/10/23, 2:21 AM

The New Humanitarian | As violence soars in refugee camps, Rohingya women speak up

'The night government'

The New Humanitarian interviewed s
pressured to hand over money, or w
and for the problem to be discusse

orking, were
ories to be told

Similar accounts were corrobora
and a government official.

archers, other refugees,

"Before coming here, we were
said a woman leader, whose
extorting money in her cam

ith us. Now our own people are,"
hours by a group suspected of

None of the women said
the refugee camps, whe

adeshi police or authorities that oversee
nd crimes routinely go unpunished.

"There's nowhere for u
online because she h
of young women wh

munity organiser, who is regularly threatened
pay "taxes" on her NGO salary. She said she knows
at she could be as well.

The women believ
Rohingya Salvatio
affiliations are d

perpetrated by a militant group known as the Arakan
s and other criminal groups also operate in the camps, and
refugees themselves.

READ

d the Rohingya camp violence

A governm
threats to
the issue

Bazar told The New Humanitarian that "simple criminals" were behind the
no such thing as ARSA in the camp," he said, asking not to be named because
d sensitive.

Among
gover

wever, the perceived influence of ARSA is so extensive that some dub them "the night

Ma
toi

the threats against her have grown so severe that she won't leave her tent home to use the
ight.

s ago, she started receiving online abuse after she wrote a Facebook post that supported women's
ts. "They asked me which way I would prefer to be abused," she said, sitting hunched over on a chair in
quiet corner of a community centre.

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The men, dressed in black, banged on the door at she
leave her job; they told her that it goes unity for
women to work.

“If you don’t obey, we will take you o

She reluctantly agreed – well awa apped or abused for
not obeying.

Before she fled Myanmar as a ven years. Now, fear slowly
takes hold of her every evenin jeep has rumbled out of the
vast refugee camps.

“I am scared of them,” she

No protection for Rohingya aid volunteers

The security situation 4 camps. It also changes over time; intimidation
comes and goes in w workers report being told to pay “taxes” from their
NGO job earnings, a s logo circulate on social media. In others, the main
goal appears to be . Supportive husbands and relatives of educated women
have also been tar

Aid groups say t rogrammes that are highly dependent on community
volunteers. A M aid coordinators focused on gender issues said some teachers,
health outrea s have stopped working due to the “new wave of threats” and “severe
forms of viol

Some chan ad of International Women’s Day in March, for example, UN Women
cancelled ign that was to feature the faces of several women leaders. “This might have
otherwis caused them harm,” said Flora Macula, head of UN Women in Cox’s Bazar.

“But th n that we are scaling back our activities with women,” she added.

The i fing encourages aid groups to document threats and violence, help women with legal
sup location if necessary, and to not replace female workers or accept that their rights are
res

“We don’t know how to touch this, so we don’t.”

But for many aid workers, the reality is more complex.

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The New Humanitarian | As violence soars in refugee camps, Rohingya women speak up

Humanitarian groups are well aware of aid worker said: They can't protect fem but not hiring women robs them of p

cision, the harm's way;

"We don't know how to touch this,

Speaking out

Many Rohingya say the worsen to Bhasan Char, a disaster-pr Rohingya refused previous g relocated there since Dece

have volunteered to relocate groups call a floating jail. nd, but some 19,000 people have

Mariam, the civil society a and threats in the mainla

saw it as a way to escape harassment

"If I go to Myanmar, th to Bhasan Char,' but t

re problems," she said. "I told my family, 'let's go

Rights groups have there must be "zer

urity in the camps, especially at night. Aid groups say their families are threatened or harassed.

But some aid wo Bangladeshi au

erly documenting the extent of the violence could push tight restrictions on the Rohingya.

Authorities h prevented R March. Afte worsening

camps with watchtowers and barbed-wire fencing – which may have to safety during a massive fire that engulfed parts of four camps in sh's home affairs minister said the fences were meant to contain "the nd order in the camps".

"If Rohin govern to spe

ted as terrorists, this could eventually be used as a good argument by the should leave Bangladesh," said a UN official, who asked not to be identified in order

Tryi spo ac

light on the problem has also landed Rohingya in trouble. The New Humanitarian has efugees who fled into hiding after they were threatened for helping to research criminal in the camps.

“I said, ‘Even if you threaten to kill me, I will not stop speaking up.’”

Some women, however, no longer want to be silent.

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“Even in conservative Saudi Arabia, ther

A few months ago, Laila started receiv
equality in an aid organisation’s video

men’s

Rather than quit her advocacy, how
to kill me, I will not stop speaking

ven if you threaten

Laila continues to share the vide

nce.

“When someone is speaking c

With reporting support from two individuals whose names are being withheld due to security concerns.

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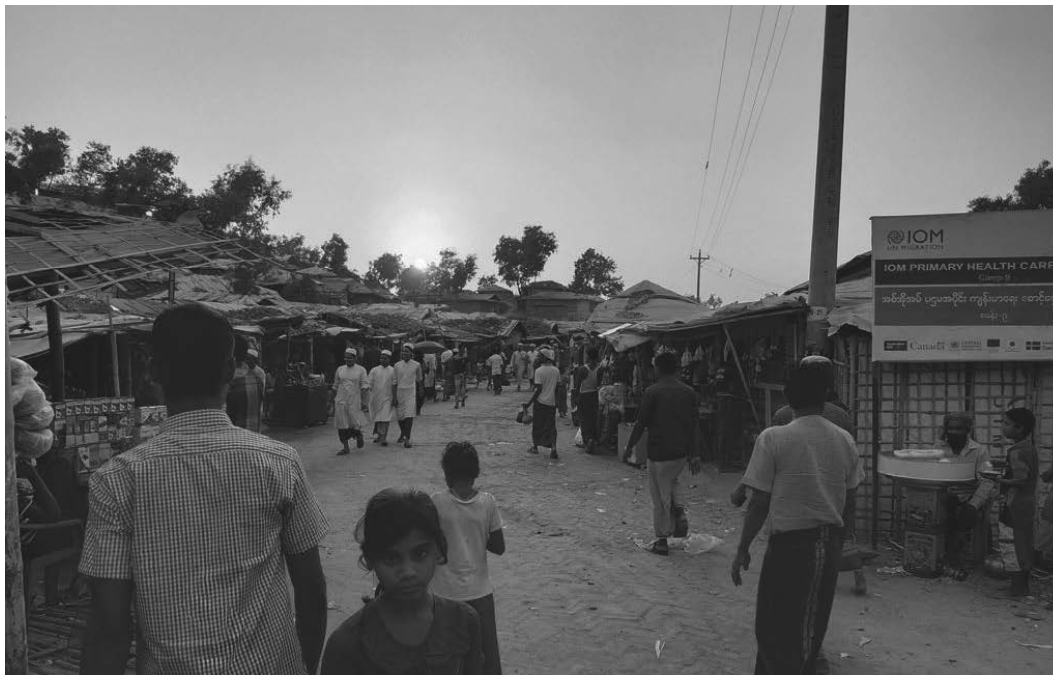
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OP-ED: Is ARSA a threat to Bangladesh?

 [Saleem Samad](#)

 Published at 05:41 am August 17th, 2021



Dhaka Tribune

Does the militant group's presence spell trouble for Bangladesh?

Early this month, on information that members of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) were holding a secret meeting in a mosque in a Rohingya camp, the Armed Police Battalion raided the site. When the raid occurred at Chakmarkul Rohingya Block-3 camp, Amtala mosque, the members escaped the dragnet. The police seized 72 pairs of sandals as evidence of the botched meeting.

The ARSA members are mostly recruits from among the Rohingya refugees. They mostly raise funds from the Rohingya living in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

ARSA is the fledgling Rohingya militant group whose attacks on police posts across northern Rakhine State on August 25, 2017, provided an excuse for the Tatmadaw's (Myanmar military) brutal ethnic cleansing campaign against the Rohingya that prompted the region's most severe refugee crisis. The exodus of more than one million Rohingya from the restive Rakhine State has also brought ARSA supporters into Bangladesh, and have taken shelter in squalid refugee camps.

Explaining in a rare interview to the international media, Ataulah Abu Ammar Jununi, commonly known simply as Ataulah, the supreme of ARSA said that their objective would be "open war" and "continued [armed] resistance" until "citizenship rights were reinstated" of the Rohingya in Myanmar. Ataulah denied any links to the Islamic State or ISIS in his August 2017 video and claimed he turned his back on support from Pakistani-based militants.

A security expert in Bangladesh explains that ARSA has ideological differences with other terror outfits and has reason to distance itself from the transnational jihadist network, which would compel Bangladeshi security forces to move against them.

For obvious reasons, the global terror network's footprint is absent in the region. The territory is too hot to handle, as some experts explained, especially when India remains a threat to their physical presence. With dried ordinance, the militants were unable to launch any large-scale skirmishes with Myanmar troops after August 2017.

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5/10/23, 1:39 AM

OP-ED: Is ARSA a threat to Bangladesh? | Dhaka Tribune

On the other hand, their hit-and-run tactics were significantly neutralized after the Myanmar troops' crackdown on Rohingya

have trained their eyes and ears on their activities. The officials said ARSA is also known as 'Al Yakin' in the refugee camps, and the militants prey on people.

They are responsible for a series of kidnaps, extortions, tortures, and executions of suspects. The recruiters from sleeping-cells disseminate a message that joining ARSA or "Al Yakin" is a Farj (a religious obligation).



However, ARSA remains focused on recruitment and indoctrination, followed by establishing small units and engaging in rudimentary military training. One such session of recruits was in progress in the Amtala mosque earlier this month.

The International Crisis Group, a conflict resolution nonprofit organization, claims that the network of members and supporters in Bangladesh are fairly large. The cash-starved Al Yakin, the volunteer group of ARSA, is mostly responsible for gang war to establish dominance over other non-militant groups in the camps.

Often, there is breaking news from Rohingya refugee camps -- of robbers, dacoits, and armed gangs killed in encounters with anti-crime forces. The slain victims are radicalized Rohingya militants.

Despite that, ARSA's name still commands a mix of cautious respect and fear among some in the Rohingya camps. The members maintain a low profile to avoid confrontation with Bangladesh security forces.

For survival, the foot soldiers are engaged in providing armed escorts to cross-border smugglers and drug traders. ARSA's militancy capabilities remain poor due to strict surveillance by security agencies -- reducing ARSA into a toothless tiger.

Saleem Samad is an independent journalist, media rights defender. Recipient of Ashoka Fellowship and Hellman-Hammett Award. He could be reached at saleemsamad@hotmail.com; Twitter: @saleemsamad.

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1971: Bangladesh's "Liberation War"

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Submitted by AWL on 18 January, 2022 - 5:03 **Author:** Sacha Ismail



The first part of this series, [‘The origins of Bangladesh and Pakistan’s 1968’](#), was published in December 2021.

“Kill three million and the rest will eat out of our hands.” So Pakistani dictator Yahya Khan is said to have told his top brass in March 1971, as they prepared war against the people of East Bengal. By the time Bangladesh – “Bengal Nation” – gained its independence in December, Pakistan’s army had murdered between 300,000 and three million civilians. These were among the worst atrocities of the 20th century, seeking to suppress one of the biggest anti-colonial struggles.

Conflict over the relationship between Pakistan’s two wings – the East with the majority of the population, the West dominating the state and economic machinery – had simmered and periodically flared for over two decades, ever since independence from Britain. What began as a struggle for recognition of the Bengali language became more and more one for some form of self-determination. In the 1950s and 60s the energy of this rising mass movement flowed into a petty bourgeois-led Bengali nationalist party, the Awami League (AL).

Democracy denied

In 1968-9 a vast uprising of students and workers beginning in the West ousted military dictator Ayub Khan, in power since 1958. Yahya took over and held national elections, Pakistan's first, in December 1970. The openly right-wing and religious parties were

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routed. In the East the AL won over 70% of the vote and almost all the seats, enough for a majority across Pakistan. A majority of Western seats went to the Pakistan People's Party (PPP). The PPP's channelling of the struggle was a tragedy for both East and West.

On paper the PPP was more "socialist" than the AL, though by then the latter was talking socialism too. Many of West Pakistan's insurgent workers and students supported it. But it was run by Ayub's former foreign minister, Sindhi landlord Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. Even more of an immediate issue than Bhutto's fake socialism was his false posturing as a democrat. Aggressively (West) Pakistani nationalist, he not only advocated greater militarism against India, but opposed even the AL's moderate proposals for federalism.

The West Pakistani movement against Ayub had originally included strong autonomy for the East (and for each of the four Western provinces) among its demands. But after Ayub's fall the movement receded sharply; Bhutto and his friends had the initiative.

Many thought Bhutto would reach an agreement with the AL to push the military from power. They gave him too much credit. Instead he worked with the military to oppose the Bengali movement, sometimes pushing the generals for a harder stance. Without Bhutto they would not have been able to do what they did.

The PPP leaders could dress it up all they wanted, but the fundamental character of this stance was made clear by a Pakistani general who within days of the 1970 election reassured his men: "We will not let these black bastards rule over us".

In February 1971 Bhutto declared the PPP would boycott the assembly in order to oppose the AL taking office and carrying out its federalist programme, threatening PPP members who wanted to take part. He participated in the decision of the military leaders to cancel the convening of the assembly, without rescheduling – announced on 1 March. The people of the East responded with mass protests, mass civil disobedience and a general strike.

Since the AL would have a majority in the new national assembly, opposition to Bengali self-determination necessitated opposition to democracy at an all-Pakistan level. What the military launched was effectively both a coup against the newly elected government of the whole country and a West Pakistani invasion of East Bengal.

Operation Searchlight: beginning of the genocide

The admiral who was military governor of East Pakistan resigned in protest at the regime's refusal to seek compromise with the Bengalis; yet the "socialist" Bhutto affirmed to the junta that he would support repression.

Yahya and Bhutto took part in negotiations in Dhaka, presenting a conciliatory face to the AL leaders. Meanwhile preparations for a military assault on the East accelerated.

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On 25 March the army launched “Operation Searchlight” to smash the Bengali movement. Returning to Karachi from a burning Dhaka on 26 March, Bhutto beamed as he told journalists: “Thank God, Pakistan has been saved”.

Until the Western revolt of 1968, East Pakistan had in some ways been the part of the country where the people had carved out most democratic space under the military regime. Now that regime was supposedly on the way out; but it drove to subjugate the people of the East with horrific brutality.

All foreign journalists had been deported from East Pakistan – with good reason. Somehow figures for the number of killings don't seem to do justice to the sheer barbarity of Pakistan's war. Poor working-class areas of Dhaka were demolished, as thousands of towns and villages would be in the course of the war. Tens of millions would be displaced. The campaign of executions targeted political activists, students and “intellectuals”. In the first day of Operation Searchlight the University of Dhaka was invaded and hundreds of teachers, campus workers and students murdered.

Jagannath Hall, a residency of mainly Hindu-background students, was destroyed, and about 600 of its residents killed. That set the scene for a core element of Pakistan's disgusting campaign, the targeting of East Bengal's Hindu population. Hindus made up 20% of East Pakistanis, but a big majority of the millions fleeing over the border into India.

Pakistan's rulers flaunted their anti-Hindu policy, saying they were promoting Islam against a decadent Hindu-influenced Bengali culture.

As well as virulently racist, Pakistan's war was virulently misogynistic. Hundreds of thousands of Bengali women were raped. A West Pakistani religious leader's edict declaring that “wealth and women” seized were legitimate “booty of war” was widely circulated. One army officer told an American in East Pakistan that after they won, “each of his soldiers would have a Bengali mistress and that neither dogs nor Bengalis would be allowed in the exclusive Chittagong Club”. In fact women were kept as sex slaves inside the military cantonment in Dhaka.

Shamefully, after the war many of the rape victims faced humiliation and ostracism in independent Bangladesh.

Women served in the Bangladeshi resistance forces, including as fighters. In broad sweep Bengali nationalism was liberatory and progressive; but some Bengali fighters also killed and raped civilians, particularly from Urdu-speaking migrant communities from the Indian state of Bihar, which tended to sympathise with Pakistan. After the war hundreds of thousands of Biharis and others were denied citizenship and forced to live in refugee camps, with the courts overturning this for those born in Bangladesh only in 2008.

The basis for Pakistan's fascist-style assault on the Bengalis had been laid over many years of a right-wing and militaristic regime that justified an increasingly colonial relationship with the East by presenting its people as alien and inferior. That built on

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British imperial narratives contrasting the conspiratorial and untrustworthy Bengalis to the “martial races” of north-west India – including the Punjabis, who dominated Pakistan’s officer caste.

Actual fascists, or a close equivalent, played an important part in Pakistan’s war. The army helped establish and train Razakar (volunteer) militias – in particular Al-Badr, dominated by Islamist organisation Jamaat-e-Islami, and Al-Shams, led by other Islamist groups and the conservative Muslim League. Islamists supported Pakistan as an Islamic project and hated the secularism of the Awami League and the left. Their militias, Pakistan’s only active local support, took part in the spectrum of atrocities, but played a particular role in the killing of left-wing students and intellectuals.

In West Pakistan a government-orchestrated wave of anti-Bengali, anti-Indian and Islamist chauvinism swept the country. The most militant working-class and student leaders were imprisoned.

The Bangladeshi struggle

More and more Awami League supporters – particularly the radical students – had been demanding independence from Pakistan, and AL president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman made reference to independence in a landmark speech shortly before the start of the war. However the AL leaders did not straightforwardly demand it until Operation Searchlight began. On 26 March - the official Bangladeshi independence day - Mujib signed a declaration that “today Bangladesh is a sovereign and independent country”.

He was arrested the same day and taken to the West, but on the 27th the declaration made it onto the airwaves, in the voice of future Bangladeshi dictator Major Ziaur Rahman.

Probably believing their own anti-Bengali propaganda, the Pakistanis aimed to end the war within a month. In fact the Bangladeshi forces kept the conflict going over eight months before India intervened in December.

Although the early military resistance was chaotic, it drew strength from many sources, in the context of massive popular support for the independence struggle. Bengali soldiers and police defected in huge numbers. The East Bengal Regiment and the East Pakistan rifles went over en masse and became the core of the “regular” military element of the Mukti Bahini (Liberation Forces) as the Bangladeshi fighters came to be known. The Mukti Bahini also had a “people’s” wing of civilian volunteers, active mainly in guerrilla warfare. There was a proliferation of militias led by sections of the Awami League, student groups and various left organisations.

An AL-run provisional government for the “People’s Republic of Bangladesh” was set up in the west of the country, near the border with India. On 10 April, through the elected Eastern members of the Pakistani assembly, constituted as Bangladesh’s constituent assembly, it issued formal declaration of independence.

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As the war dragged on, the AL leadership was concerned about being outflanked on the left. Many of the party's rank-and-file activists and supporters saw themselves as fighting for what they understood as socialism, and left-wing ideas did spread widely.

The left in East Bengal, completely dominated by Stalinism, found itself wrong-footed by events. By this time the Sino-Soviet split in the Stalinist left internationally was in full swing. In East Pakistan the pro-Russian wing, pursuing an approach of sharply separated historical stages, with distinct socialist struggle downplayed until an unspecified time after independence, made itself hard to distinguish from the AL leadership. The pro-Chinese wing, generally more "radical", was in disarray in part because of long-running confusion on the question of self-determination.

The Soviet Union was allied with India, an alliance strengthened during this conflict. Mao's China was allied with Pakistan, praising this closely US-linked regime as "anti-imperialist" and defending its "national unity" against the Bengali struggle. In the early 60s East Bengali Maoists and similar had often been startlingly soft on the Pakistani dictatorship, with the encouragement of the Chinese bureaucracy. (By 1971 some pro-Chinese leftists had come round to supporting independence.)

The international line-up

China provided propagandistic and practical support to Pakistan during the war, but too little and too measuredly for the junta's satisfaction. The US, Pakistan's dominant ally since the early 50s, was less restrained. Richard Nixon's regime went out of its way to funnel aid and weapons to the Pakistanis and protect them from restraining criticism and pressure. Nixon told Pakistani diplomats: "Yahya is a good friend. I understand the anguish of the decisions he has to make."

So extreme was the US's stance that American diplomats in East Bengal, including the consul general, wrote in protest to denounce "the suppression of democracy", "atrocities" and "bending over backwards to placate the West Pakistan-dominated government".

The personal-psychological inclinations of Nixon and Henry Kissinger – the former described Indians as "slippery, treacherous... bastards" and the latter India's prime minister Indira Gandhi as "a bitch" – seem to have played a role. More fundamentally, the US government feared a growth in the influence the Soviet Union and India in South Asia, and the possibilities for left-wing radicalisation in an independent Bangladesh.

Nixon and Kissinger were also in the process of attempting to establish relations with China, also opposed to the USSR and India. Pakistan was a conduit to China.

From June 1971 Pakistan's crimes in East Bengal became widely known, in the first instance due to the reports of a courageous West Pakistani journalist, Anthony Mascarenhas.

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A global solidarity movement developed, reaching far beyond the East Pakistani diaspora and the left. Approached by West Bengali-American musician Ravi Shankar, former Beatle George Harrison produced what has been described as the world's first charity single, *Bangla Desh*. He and Shankar organised benefits with a remarkable array of famous musicians.

The impact on world opinion was more important than the money. Pakistan was made to stink in the nostrils of many millions worldwide – even as some of the most powerful governments continued to support it, and others (including the UK) equivocated.

By far Bangladesh's strongest supporter was India. That the Mukti Bahini maintained the resistance for so long is a tribute to their courage and popular support; but they also depended on Indian organisation, training and weapons. A mix of factors seems to driven Indian support for the East Bengalis: public opinion; desire to batter a long-standing military adversary; concern for Hindus being persecuted; fear of the left gaining the upper hand in East Bengal and linking up with comrades over the border; perhaps even some element of democratic principle and humanitarianism...

India had a very immediate reason for intervening which was both humanitarian and self-interested. By the summer of 1971 something like ten million refugees had crossed into the eastern Indian states of West Bengal and Assam, creating a humanitarian and economic crisis and growing political pressure.

In August, as global outrage at the genocide mounted, India signed a co-operation treaty with the Soviet Union. Newly confident of safety from Chinese retaliation if her government intervened in East Bengal, in October Indira Gandhi toured the US and Europe to indict Pakistan. Battle intensified in the UN and other inter-state forums.

On 3 December the desperate Pakistani regime launched pre-emptive airstrikes on Indian air force bases – modelled on Israel's surprise attack on Egypt during the 1967 Six-Day War. The Indian government had anticipated such action; it was ineffective, but gave India a final excuse for the intervention it wanted. Arguing that Pakistan had declared war, India defended itself in the west while launching an invasion of East Bengal.

At the UN Pakistan and its allies demanded a ceasefire; this was vetoed twice by the USSR. The US detached a ten-ship task force from its fleet off South Vietnam and sent it to the Bay of Bengal; Russian ships from Vladivostok were sent after and trailed it into January 1972.

Outgunned and already demoralised, the Pakistani army surrendered within a fortnight, on 16 December. In addition to more than double India's casualties before the surrender, Pakistan had 90,000 soldiers taken as prisoners of war.

A new country of 65 million people was born, with a government that said it was committed to secularism, democracy and socialism.

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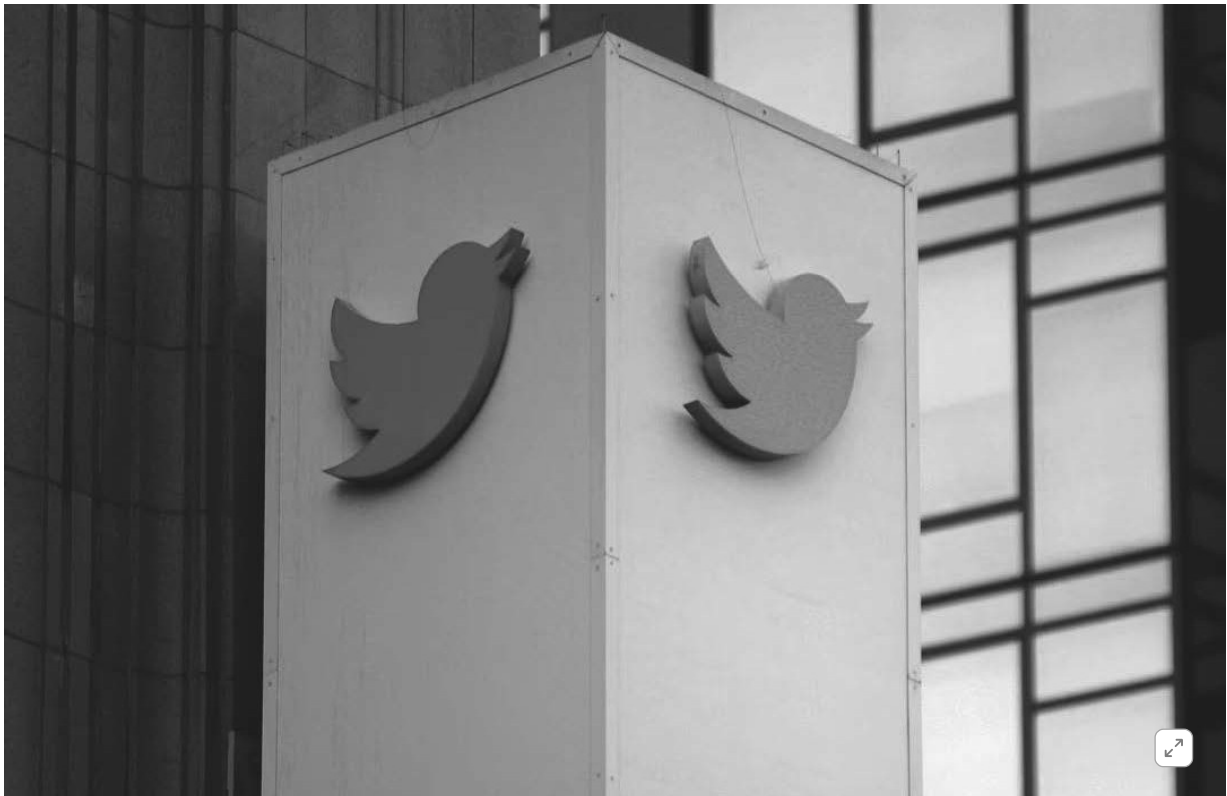
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Twitter files lawsuit against German online reporting rule

Reuters



[1/2] A Twitter logo is seen outside the company headquarters in San Francisco, California, U.S., January 11, 2021. REUTERS/Stephen Lam

< 1 2 >



BERLIN, Jan 31 (Reuters) - Twitter ([TWTR.N](#)) has taken legal action against a rule, coming into force in Germany from Tuesday, that obliges social media firms to block or delete criminal content quickly and report particularly serious criminal offences to the police, a German court confirmed on Monday.

Feedback

The lawsuit filed at the administrative court in Cologne challenges a provision under Germany's expanded anti-hate speech regulations that Twitter says allows user data to be passed to law enforcement before it is clear any crime has been committed.



<https://www.reuters.com/technology/twitter-files-lawsuit-against-german-online-reporting-rule-2022-01-31/>

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Twitter files lawsuit against German online reporting rule | Reuters

Facebook ([FB.O](#)) and Alphabet's ([GOOGL.O](#)) Google unit also filed similar lawsuits in the summer. [read more](#)

"We are concerned that the law provides for a significant encroachment on citizens' fundamental rights," a Twitter spokesperson said.

"In particular, we are concerned that the obligation to proactively share user data with law enforcement forces private companies into the role of prosecutors by reporting users to law enforcement even when there is no illegal behaviour."

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Germany enacted the anti-hate speech law in early 2018, making online social networks YouTube, Facebook ([FB.O](#)) and Twitter responsible for policing and removing toxic content.

The law, which also required social networks to publish regular reports on their compliance, was widely criticised as ineffective, and parliament in May passed legislation to toughen and broaden its application. [read more](#)

The new regulation is intended to help German law enforcement better target right-wing extremism and hate speech online.

<https://www.reuters.com/technology/twitter-files-lawsuit-against-german-online-reporting-rule-2022-01-31/>

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Reporting by Miranda Murray and Matthias Inverardi; Editing by Emelia Sithole-Matarise



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O. Noyan, “Big tech opposes Germany’s enhanced hate speech law”, *Euractiv*, 1 February 2022

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<https://www.euractiv.com/section/internet-governance/news/german-reinforcement-of-hate-speech-law-faces-opposition-from-big-online-platforms/>



Big tech opposes Germany's enhanced hate speech law



With the new amendment, the BKA expects to receive about 250,000 reports per year under the NetzDG, which would result in about 150,000 criminal proceedings. EPA-EFE/ARMANDO BABANI [ARMANDO BABANI/EPA]

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The amendment to Germany's Network Enforcement Act known as NetzDG on combatting hate speech online comes into force on Tuesday (1 February) but some of the largest online platforms refuse to cooperate. EURACTIV Germany reports.

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5/3/23, 11:59 AM

Big tech opposes Germany's enhanced hate speech law – EURACTIV.com

The amended law introduces requirements for online platforms with over two million users, such as Google or Facebook, to pass on information to the authorities for criminal prosecutions. They are also obligated to delete content that violates criminal law and report it to the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA).

But these new obligations – initially destined for big online platforms – have been temporarily put on hold.

Google, Meta, Twitter and Tik Tok have filed a lawsuit against the amended law before the Cologne Administrative Court.

As a result of the ongoing lawsuits, the German Ministry of Justice has promised the two corporations Meta, which includes Facebook and Instagram, and Google, the parent company of YouTube, that it will not require them to report until the administrative court has made a decision. It is yet unclear when the Cologne court will decide on the matter.

It is also unknown if the justice ministry will also decide on an exemption for Twitter and Tik Tok.

With the new amendment, the BKA expects to receive about 250,000 reports per year under the NetzDG, which would result in about 150,000 criminal proceedings.

To process the expected increase in reports, the BKA has set up the 'Central Reporting Office for Criminal Content on the Internet' or ZMI.

About 200 officers will facilitate the "consistent prosecution of the authors of such criminal content", a BKA spokesperson told newspaper RND.

As long as the obligation for large online platforms to report illegal content to the BKA remains suspended, this task will temporarily be carried out by other state reporting institutions combating hate speech, research by *Der Spiegel* shows.

However, EU law provisions could soon supersede the NetzDG.

The EU's Digital Services Act (DSA), which is currently being negotiated, has a similar thrust as the NetzDG and provides strict online platform requirements. German politicians, therefore, often interpret the NetzDG as a blueprint for the DSA.

Negotiations between the Council and the European Parliament on the DSA are already in full swing and started on Monday.

French President Emmanuel Macron has announced his intention to finalise the DSA while France holds the EU Council Presidency, which runs until the end of June.

[Edited by Luca Bertuzzi/ Alice Taylor]



Annex 449

S. Shahid, “Attackers had links with handlers in Afghanistan, India: army”,
Dawn, 4 February 2022

Available at:

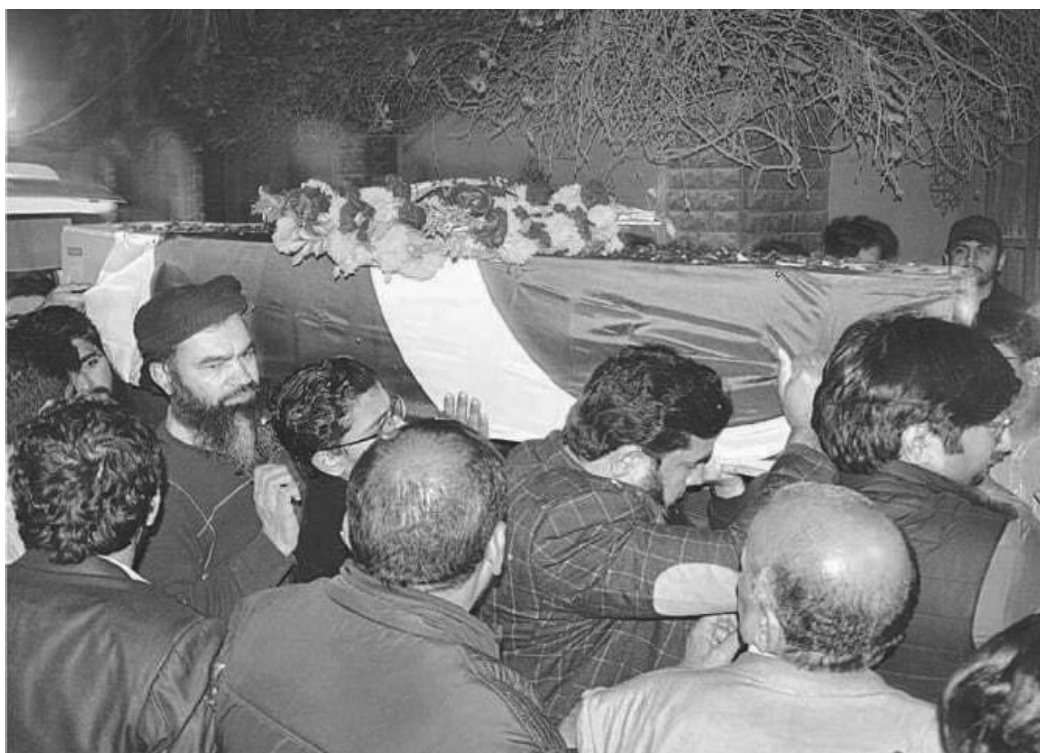
<https://www.dawn.com/news/1673174>

DAWN

TODAY'S PAPER | APR L 30, 2023

Attackers had links with handlers in Afghanistan, India: army

Saleem Shahid | Published February 4, 2022



FAISALABAD: People attend the funeral of a soldier who was martyred during a gun battle with terrorists in Balochistan.—AP

- 13 terrorists killed, seven security personnel martyred in fighting
- Operation still underway in Panjgur

QUETTA: Pakistan on Thursday blamed elements based in Afghanistan and India for attacks on two security forces' installations in Balochistan even as troops continued an operation against terrorists holding out in the Panjgur district.

Annex 449

4/29/23, 11:36 PM

Attackers had links with handlers in Afghanistan, India: army - Newspaper - DAWN.COM

At least 13 terrorists were killed and seven security personnel, including an officer, martyred during armed attacks on two security forces' camps in the Nushki and Panjgur districts, and subsequent security operations against the attackers, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Thursday.

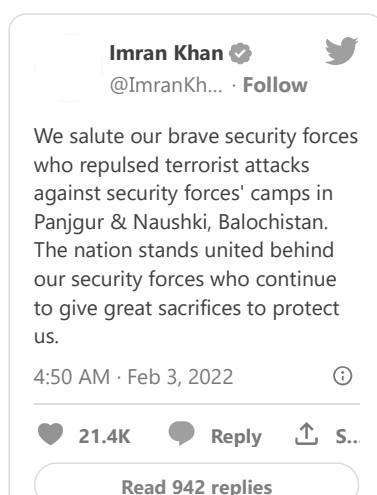
In a statement regarding the attack, which was partly reported in Thursday's paper, ISPR said that after successfully repulsing attacks on Wednesday night, security forces carried out clearance operations to hunt down the attackers hiding in the area, killing at least five terrorists.

Security forces claimed to have killed five attackers in Nushki, while four terrorists who were trying to flee the area were engaged and killed in Panjgur. Four terrorists were killed on Wednesday night.

The ISPR statement mentioned that according to their initial findings, intelligence agencies had intercepted communications between terrorists and their handlers in Afghanistan and India.

According to the military, action is still ongoing in Panjgur where four to five terrorists have been surrounded by security forces. The statement said that three soldiers and an officer were martyred in the line of duty at Nushki, while four soldiers were injured and three others laid down their lives in the fighting in Panjgur.

In a tweet on Thursday, Prime Minister Imran Khan paid tribute to the "brave security forces who repulsed terrorist attacks against security forces' camps", adding that: "The nation stands united behind our security forces who continue to give great sacrifices to protect us".



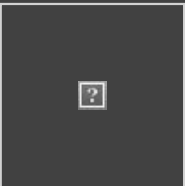
Condemning the attacks, Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed also lauded the gallantry of the brave men who had laid down their lives in the defence of their country, adding that Pakistan's

Annex 450

The Business Standard, “Languages of Bangladesh”, 21 February 2022

Available at:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/supplement/languages-bangladesh-373636>



Saturday
March 11, 2023

SUPPLEMENT

TBS Report

21 February, 2022, 10:30 am

Last modified: 21 February, 2022, 01:39 pm



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Languages of Bangladesh

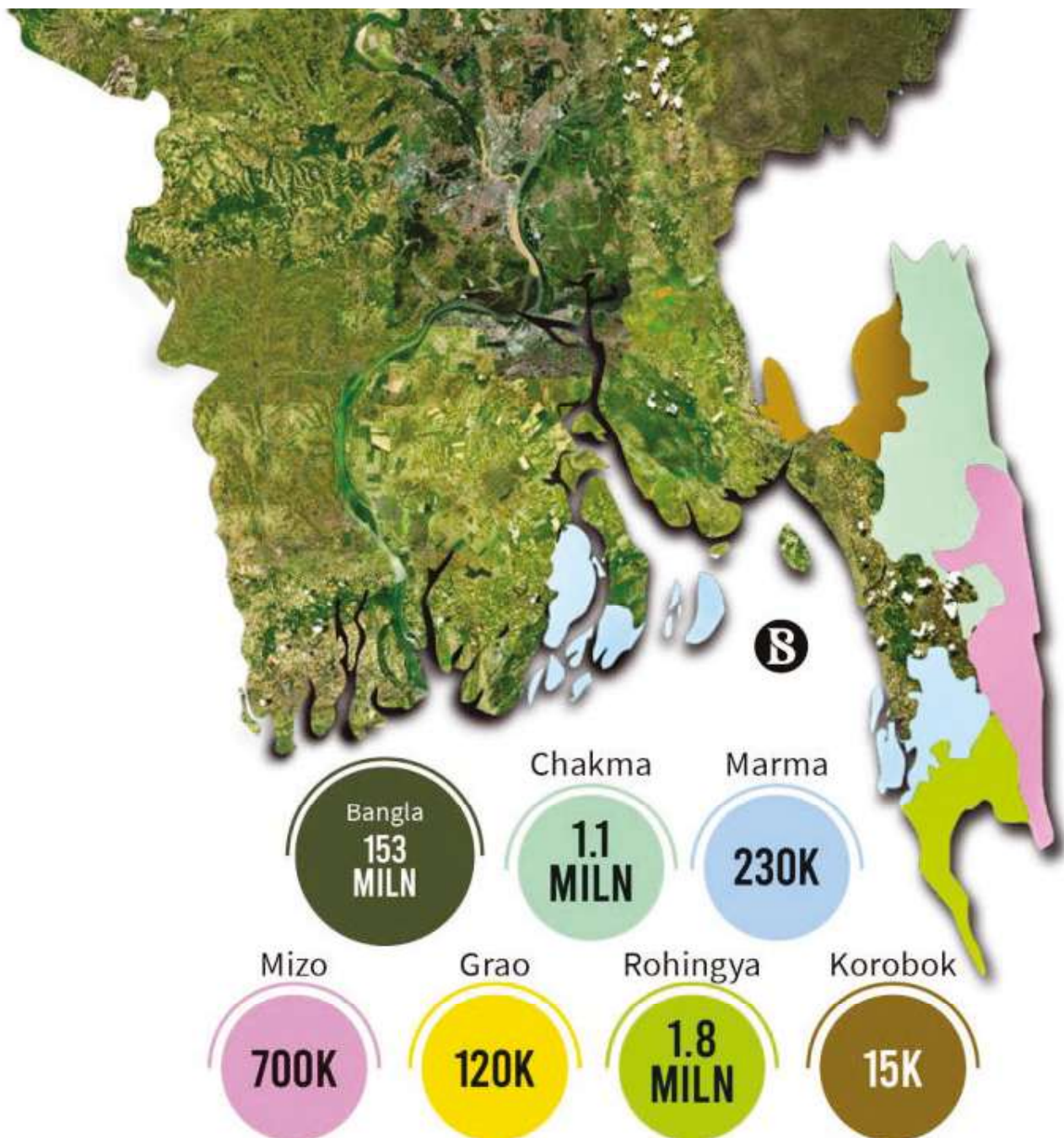
The number of established languages listed for Bangladesh is 42. Of these, 36 are ethnic minority languages and 6 are non ethnic minority languages



<https://www.tbsnews.net/supplement/languages-bangladesh-373636>[11/03/2023 16:27:41]

Annex 450

Languages of Bangladesh | undefined



The number of established languages listed for Bangladesh is 42. All are living languages. Of these, 36 are ethnic minority languages and 6 are non ethnic minority languages.

Furthermore, 4 are institutional, 13 are developing, 14 are vigorous, and 11 are in trouble.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/supplement/languages-bangladesh-373636>[11/03/2023 16:27:41]

Annex 450

Languages of Bangladesh | undefined

Also listed are 2 unestablished languages.

There are currently 50 ethnic communities enlisted by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. But unofficially that number there is an estimated 54 communities.

Measures have been taken to include teachers from ethnic groups and texts in ethnic languages at the pre-primary school.

The government has distributed books for the nursery school in five ethnic languages, namely Chakma, Garo, Kokborok, Marma and Sadri.

Bangla

The 3rd article of the Constitution of Bangladesh states Bengali to be the sole official language of Bangladesh. Bengali Language Implementation Act, 1987 made it mandatory to use Bengali in all government affairs except in the cases of foreign relations

According to a 2011 census, Bengali is predominantly spoken by 98% of the country's population and it also serves as the national language of the nation.

The indigenous people of northern and southeastern Bangladesh speak a variety of native

<https://www.tbsnews.net/supplement/languages-bangladesh-373636>[11/03/2023 16:27:41]

Annex 450

Languages of Bangladesh | undefined

languages.

With approximately 228 million native speakers and another 37 million as second language speakers, Bengali is the fifth most-spoken native language and the sixth most spoken language by total number of speakers in the world.

Bengali is the official and national language of Bangladesh, with 98% of Bangladeshis using Bengali as their first language.

Within India, Bengali is the official language of the states of West Bengal, Tripura and the Barak Valley region of the state of Assam.

It is the most widely spoken language in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal, and is spoken by significant populations in other states including Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Uttarakhand.

Bengali is also spoken by the Bengali diasporas (Bangladeshi diaspora and Indian Bengalis) in Europe, the United States, the Middle East and other countries.

Ethnic minority languages of Bangladesh

There are currently 50 indigenous communities enlisted by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. But unofficially that number there is an estimated 54 communities. The Indigenous Peoples of Bangladesh speak at least 36 languages.

Measures have been taken to include teachers from Indigenous groups and texts in Indigenous languages at the pre-primary school.

The government has distributed books for the nursery school in five Indigenous languages, namely Chakma, Garo, Kokborok, Marma and Sadri.

Chakma:

Chakma language is an Indo-Aryan language spoken by the Chakma and Daingnet people.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/supplement/languages-bangladesh-373636>[11/03/2023 16:27:41]

Annex 450

Languages of Bangladesh | undefined

The language has common features with other languages in the region like the Chittagonian, Tanchangya, Arakanese and others.

It is spoken by nearly 320,000 people in southeast Bangladesh in Chittagong Hill Tracts, and another 230,000 in India, including 96,972 in Mizoram, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh.

It is written using the Chakma script, which is also called Ajhā Pāṭh, sometimes romanised Ojhopath. Literacy in Chakma script is low.

Language family: Indo-European

Bishnupriya Manipuri:

An Indo-Aryan language by the Bishnupriya Manipuri people who live in Bangladesh. Bishnupriya Manipuri is distinct from the Bengali languages and contains many features and elements of the Tibeto–Burman languages.

The Manipuri Bishnupriya or Bishnupriya Manipuri is an Indo-Aryan language spoken in parts of the Indian states of Manipur, Assam, Tripura and others, as well as in the Sylhet Division of Bangladesh, Burma, and other countries. It uses the Bengali script as its writing system.

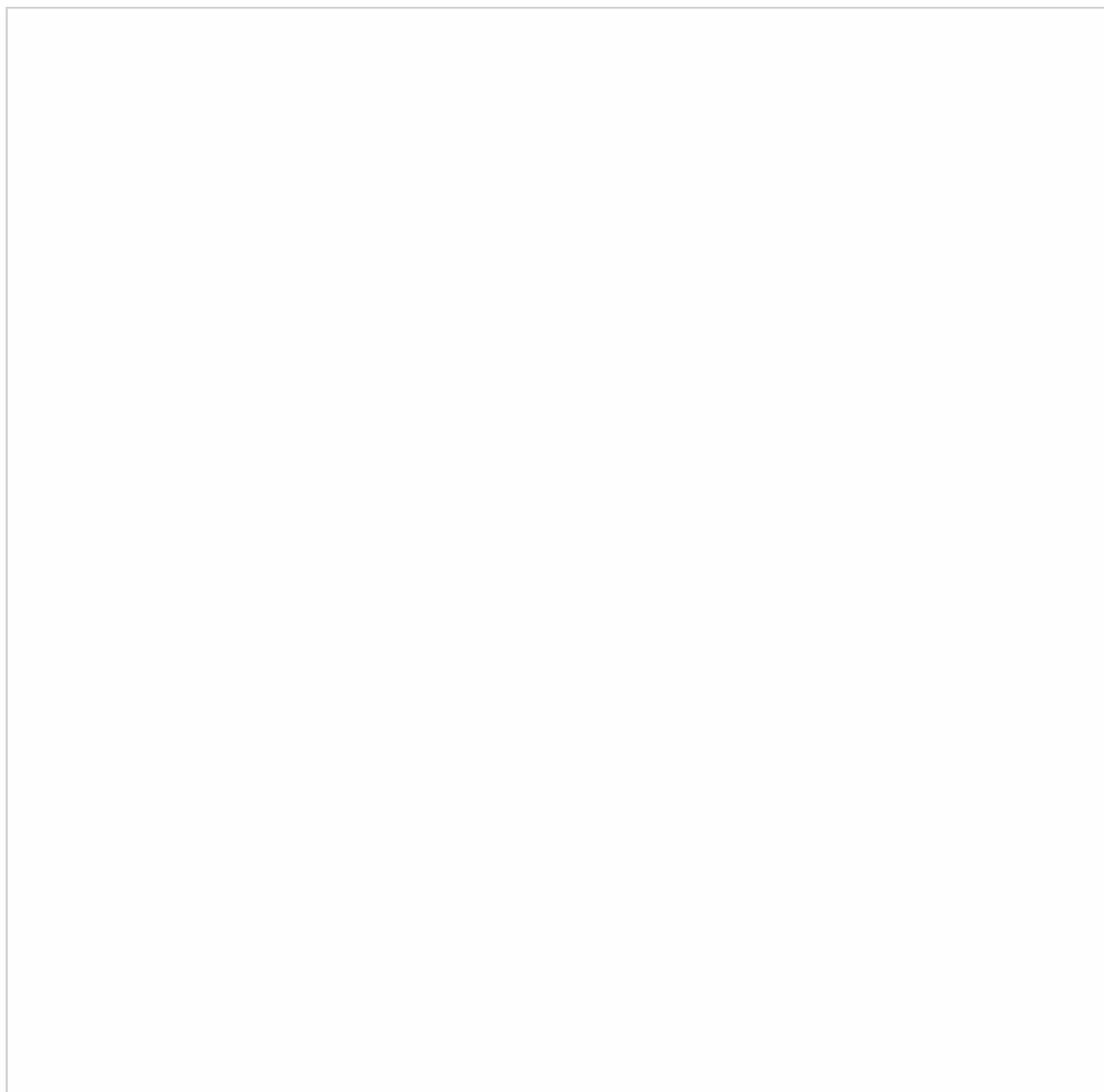
The orthodox Bishnupriyas claim that they have their own script, that is, the Devanagari script, which was used to write in the Bishnupriya language in its early years.

However, on introduction of modern education during the British period through the Bengali language the Bishnupriya Manipuri writers began to use the Bengali–Assamese script.

79,600 in India (2011 census). Total users in all countries: 119,600.

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Languages of Bangladesh | undefined



Santali:

Santali , also known as Santal, is the most widely spoken language of the Munda subfamily of the Austroasiatic languages, related to Ho and Mundari, spoken mainly in the Indian states of Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Mizoram, Odisha, Tripura and West Bengal.

It is a recognised regional language of India per the Eighth Schedule of the Indian

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Languages of Bangladesh | undefined

Constitution. It is spoken by around 7.6 million people in India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal, making it the third most-spoken Austroasiatic language after Vietnamese and Khmer.

Santali was a mainly oral language until the development of Ol Chiki by Pandit Raghunath Murmu in 1925. Ol Chiki is alphabetic, sharing none of the syllabic properties of the other Indic scripts, and is now widely used to write Santali in India.

Native speakers: 7.6 million (2011 census); Language family: Austroasiatic

Khasi:

Khasi (Ka Ktien Khasi) is an Austroasiatic language spoken primarily in Meghalaya state in India by the Khasi people. It is also spoken by a sizable population in Bangladesh and Assam.

Although most of the 1.6 million Khasi speakers are found in Meghalaya, the language is also spoken by a number of people in the hill districts of Assam bordering with Meghalaya and by a sizable population of people living in Bangladesh, close to the Indian border.

Khasi has been an associate official language of some districts within Meghalaya since 2005, and as of May 2012, was no longer considered endangered by UNESCO.

Khasi is written using the Latin and Bengali-Assamese scripts. Both scripts are taught as part of the compulsory Khasi language subject in elementary up to high school in Meghalaya and Bangladesh respectively.

Garo:

Garo, also referred to by its endonym A·chikku, is a Sino-Tibetan language spoken in India in the Garo Hills districts of Meghalaya, some parts of Assam, and in small pockets in Tripura. It is also spoken in certain areas of the neighbouring Bangladesh. According to the 2011 census, there are about 889,000 Garo speakers in India alone; another 130,000 are found in Bangladesh.

Marma:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/supplement/languages-bangladesh-373636>[11/03/2023 16:27:41]

Annex 450

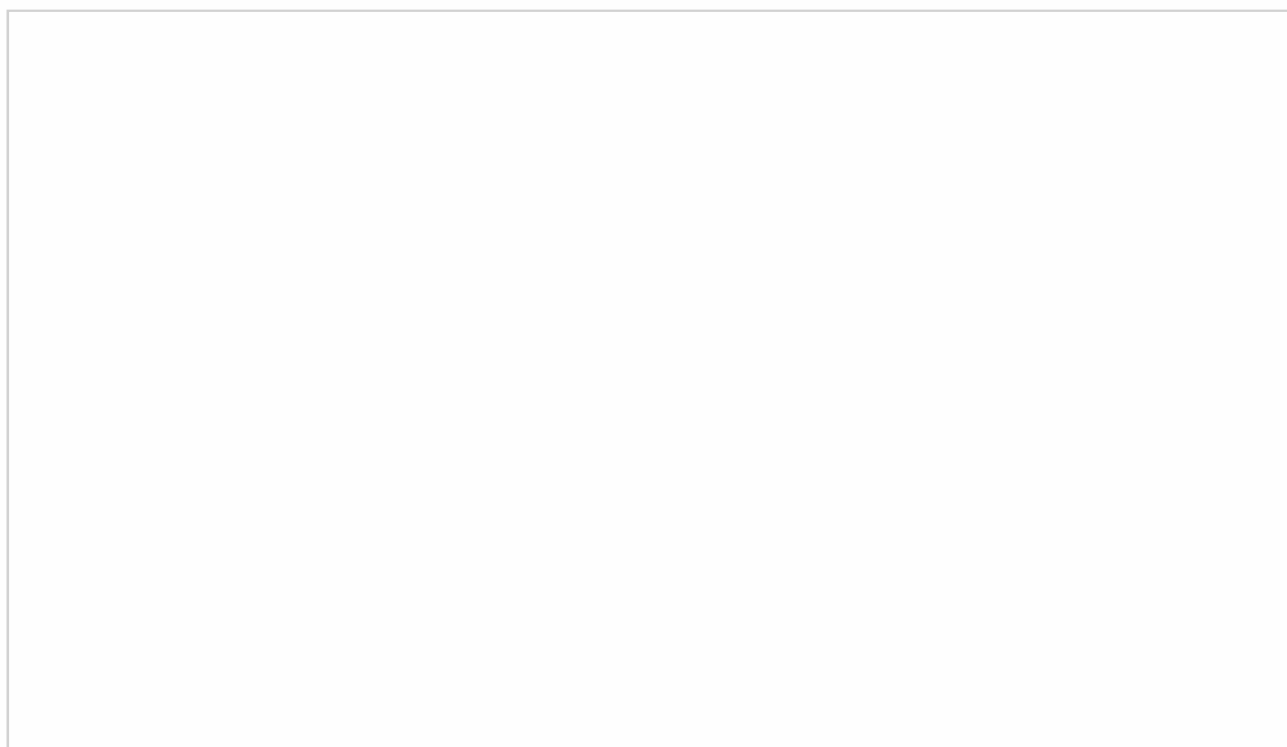
Languages of Bangladesh | undefined

There are currently about 3,50,00 Marma people in Bangladesh. Marma is a member of the Lolo-Burmese branch of the TibetoBurman language family. It is spoken by about 180,600 people in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh, particularly in Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari districts. It is considered one of the dialects of Arakanese, along with Ramree and Sandowa.

Mro /Mru:

Mru is also known as Mrung (Murung) that is a Sino-Tibetan language as well as called a recognized language of Bangladesh. It is spoken by a community of Mros (Mrus) inhabiting the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh with a population of 22,000 according to the 1991 census.

Major Dialects of Bengali



Chittagonian: Spoken by Chittagonians in the Southeastern districts of Chittagong, Cox's

[https://www.tbsnews.net/supplement/languages-bangladesh-373636\[11/03/2023 16:27:41\]](https://www.tbsnews.net/supplement/languages-bangladesh-373636[11/03/2023 16:27:41])

Annex 450

Languages of Bangladesh | undefined

Bazar and also in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. User Population: 13,000,000

Used as an L2 (provincial) in Rangamati, Bandarban, Cox's Bazar, and Chittagong districts primarily for business and market. According to the status of Top 100 Languages by Population by Ethnologue, Chittagong ranked 67th of the world.

Not inherently intelligible with Bengali, although considered a nonstandard Bengali dialect. Dialects form a continuum from north to south, with a larger religious distinction between Muslim and others. Rohingya [rhg] in Myanmar is reportedly similar to the southern dialect of Chittagonian. Lexical similarity: 43%–64% with Bangla.

Essentially, Chittagonian has no standard form and is rather a continuum of different dialects, varying with location from north to south and also by religion between Muslims (professed by most Chittagonians) and Hindus. Variation between Muslims and Hindus is strictly in terms of vocabulary, whereas by location, grammar is varied as well as vocabulary.

Sylheti: Sylheti is an Indo-Aryan language spoken by an estimated 11 million people, primarily in the Sylhet Division of Bangladesh, the Barak Valley and Hojai district of Assam, and North Tripura and Unakoti district of Tripura, India.

Besides, there are substantial numbers of Sylheti speakers in the Indian states of Meghalaya, Manipur and Nagaland as well as diaspora communities in the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Middle East.

It is variously perceived as either a dialect of Bengali or a language in its own right. While most linguists consider it an independent language, for many native speakers Sylheti forms the diglossic vernacular, with standard Bengali forming the codified lect.

Some incorrectly consider it as a "corrupt" form of Bengali, and there is a reported language shift from Sylheti to Standard Bengali in Bangladesh, India and the diaspora; though Sylheti has more vitality than Standard Bengali in the United Kingdom.

Reportedly similar to Assamese. Lexical similarity: 70% with Bengali. Native speakers are

<https://www.tbsnews.net/supplement/languages-bangladesh-373636>[11/03/2023 16:27:41]

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Languages of Bangladesh | undefined

around 10 million, with 1.5 million people's second language. Sylheti has a relatively large set of loanwords from Arabic, Hindi and Persian. The Sylheti language is written in the Sylheti Nagri script. Sylhet has a rich heritage of literature in the Sylheti Nagri script going back at least 200 years.

Dhakaiya Kutti: Dhakaiya Kutti, also known as Old Dhakaiya or simply Dhakaiya, is a Bengali dialect, spoken by the original Dhakaiyas of Old Dhaka in Bangladesh.

This language is largely intelligible with Standard Bengali but has some differences in vocabulary.

Usage of the dialect is in decline as many families are opting to raise their children to speak Standard Bengali due to it being the official medium in the country and the influence of Dhaka city as the capital.

Noakhailla: Spoken by the Noakhaillas in the Eastern districts of Noakhali, Feni and Lakshmipur as well as some areas in Greater Comilla and southern Chittagong

Noakhailla, also known as Noakhalian, is an Indo-Aryan language, spoken by an estimated 7 million people, primarily in the Greater Noakhali region of Bangladesh as well as southern parts of Tripura in India.

Outside of these regions, there are substantial numbers of Noakhailla speakers in other parts of Bangladesh; as well as diaspora communities in the Middle East, Italy, Europe and the United States.

Though often considered a Bengali dialect, some have labelled it as undecipherable to speakers of Standard Bengali and that it has a "vague" relationship with it.

Noakhailla has no presence in formal settings, neither in Bangladesh nor India, though its standardisation has been prospected.

Rongpuri: Rangpuri is an eastern Indo-Aryan language of the Bengali-Assamese branch, spoken by the people of northern West Bengal, western Goalpara of Assam in India and

<https://www.tbsnews.net/supplement/languages-bangladesh-373636>[11/03/2023 16:27:41]

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Rangpur Division in Bangladesh.

Many are bilingual in Bengali and Assamese in their respective regions. According to Glottolog, it forms the Central-Eastern Kamta group with the Kamta language. Together with Rajbanshi and Surjapuri they form the Kamta group of languages.

It is spoken by the people in Rajshahi division: Joypurhat area; Rangpur division: Dinajpur, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Panchagarh, Rangpur, and Thakurgaon districts. Native speakers are around 15 million

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<https://www.tbsnews.net/supplement/languages-bangladesh-373636>[11/03/2023 16:27:41]

Annex 451

M. Inverardy, “German court rules against online hate-speech law”, *Reuters*, 1 March 2022

Available at:

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/german-court-rules-against-online-hate-speech-law-2022-03-01/>

Annex 451

4/20/23, 12:28 PM

German court rules against online hate-speech law | Reuters

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German court rules against online hate-speech law

Reuters



A view of a sign above the entrance of the Google office, ahead of presentation of the detailed investment plan for Germany, in Berlin, Germany, August 31, 2021. REUTERS/Annegret Hilse



BERLIN, March 1 (Reuters) - A German court ruled on Tuesday against a new law that obliges social media firms to block or delete criminal content and report particularly serious offences to the police, handing a partial victory to complainants Google ([GOOGL.O](#)) and Meta ([FB.O](#)).

Feedback

Key provisions of the new anti-hate speech law, which allows user data to be passed to the police before it is clear a crime has been committed, violate European Union law, the Administrative Court in Cologne said in a statement.



<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/german-court-rules-against-online-hate-speech-law-2022-03-01/>

1/8

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4/20/23, 12:28 PM

German court rules against online hate-speech law | Reuters

The 2018 law, which also required social networks to publish regular compliance reports, was widely criticised as ineffective, and parliament passed legislation in May to toughen and broaden its application from February.

Meta, Twitter ([TWTR.N](#)) and Google, which runs the video-sharing site YouTube, had all taken legal action against the expanded version of the rule, describing it as a violation of users' rights. [read more](#)

The parties involved can appeal against the ruling to the Muenster Higher Administrative Court, the Cologne court said.

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Reporting by Matthias Inverardi; Writing by Zuzanna Szymanska Editing by Madeline Chambers



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<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/german-court-rules-against-online-hate-speech-law-2022-03-01/>

Feedback

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Annex 452

M. Rahman, “Govt worried as Rohingya population grows fast in Bangladesh camps”, *New Age*, 11 April 2022

Available at:

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/167807>

Tuesday, May 09, 2023



Govt worried as Rohingya population grows fast in Bangladesh camps

Mustafizur Rahman | Updated at 05:15am on April 11, 2022

The government is worried over the rapid growth of the Rohingya population in Cox's Bazar camps with an average of 35,000 new births registered every year to the families of the forcefully displaced Myanmar nationals taking shelter in Bangladesh.

The issue was discussed at a meeting of the 'national committee on coordination, management and law and order relating to the forcefully displaced Myanmar citizens' as the increasing Rohingya population was creating pressure on Bangladesh.

'Around 11 lakh forcefully displaced Myanmar citizens known as Rohingya have taken shelter in our country. The Rohingya population is increasing worryingly. As many as 35,000 children are born to Rohingya families here every year. So, around 1.5 lakh children were born in camps in the past five years,' home minister Asaduzzaman Khan said at a press briefing after presiding over the fourth meeting of the national committee at the ministry's conference room in the secretariat.

He said that the Islamic Foundation and the health ministry would be engaged to motivate the Rohingya people living in camps in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char island of Noakhali for using birth control tools.

The home minister said that Bangladesh Army would be engaged if necessary besides law enforcement agencies to strengthen drives and patrols in and around the camps at Ukhiya and Teknaf to contain the smuggling of drugs and other crimes.

'Army will take part in operations if necessary to maintain order at the Rohingya camps. Some Rohingya people are getting involved in drug dealings. They are operating from the camps and stockpiling narcotic items there,' Asaduzzaman said.

He said that drives against illegal businesses in Rohingya camps would continue and none would be allowed to go outside without permission.

'The Bangladesh Army was given the task of erecting barbed wire fences around the camps. They have informed the meeting that 80 per cent of the work has been completed,' he said, adding that observation towers were constructed to keep the camps under round the clock surveillance of the

Annex 452

5/8/23, 9 59 PM

Govt worried as Rohingya population grows fast in Bangladesh camps | New Age

law enforcement agencies.

He said that Army, Border Guard Bangladesh and Rapid Action Battalion members would be patrolling outside the camps also so that none could move out of their camps.

Regarding Rohingyas managing Bangladeshi passports, the home minister said that the database prepared by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees would be used so that no Rohingya could get Bangladeshi passports.

‘The Rohingyas, whose biometric scans have been taken, cannot get passports.

But some fled the camps earlier and we were keeping eyes on them so that they could not manage passports to leave the country,’ he said.

Asked how many Rohingyas fled the camps, Asaduzzaman said they did not have any such data.

The meeting decided to ask the UN refugee agency UNHCR to provide food rations considering age as small children and elderly people were now given equal amounts of food items.

State minister for disaster management and relief Md Enamur Rahman, state minister for women and children affairs Fazilatun Nessa Indira and officials from agencies concerned, among others, attended the meeting.

Officials said that the Rohingya population was increasingly creating pressure on Bangladesh’s economy and environment.

With the increase in the Rohingya population, the food and health costs were also increasing, said the officials, who added that the government was worried as the community, mostly Muslims, did not follow any birth control method.

At least 8,60,000 Rohingyas, mostly women, children and aged people, have entered Bangladesh fleeing unbridled murder, arson and rape during ‘security operations’ by the Myanmar military in Rakhine, what the United Nations has denounced as ethnic cleansing and genocide, beginning on August 25, 2017.

The latest Rohingya influx has taken the number of undocumented Myanmar nationals and registered refugees in Bangladesh to over 1.1 million, according to estimates by UN agencies and the Bangladesh foreign ministry.

Not a single Rohingya returned home to Rakhine state since the signing of instruments between Bangladesh and Myanmar in late 2018.

Two attempts to start the repatriation of the refugees from Bangladesh to Myanmar failed as the Rohingyas refused to return home without a guarantee of their citizenship and security.

Annex 452

5/8/23, 9 59 PM

Govt worried as Rohingya population grows fast in Bangladesh camps | New Age

NEWAGE

Editor: **Nurul Kabir**, Published by the Chairman, Editorial Board ASM Shahidullah Khan on behalf of Media New Age Ltd. 30 Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 Phone: 880-2-8170450-56 (PABX), Fax: 880-2-8170457

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Annex 453

S. Strangio, “Militant Group Responsible for Rohingya Advocate’s Murder, Say Bangladeshi Police”, *The Diplomat*, 15 June 2022

Available at:

<https://thediplomat.com/2022/06/militant-group-responsible-for-rohingya-advocates-murder-say-bangladeshi-police/>

THE | DIPLOMAT

ASEAN BEAT | POLITICS | SOUTHEAST ASIA

Militant Group Responsible for Rohingya Advocate's Murder, Say Bangladeshi Police

The Bangladeshi police have charged 29 people with the killing of Mohib Ullah last September.



By [Sebastian Strangio](#)

June 15, 2022

Annex 453

4/29/23, 1:22 PM

Militant Group Responsible for Rohingya Advocate's Murder, Say Bangladeshi Police – The Diplomat



Rohingya refugees participate in the funeral procession of Mohib Ullah, an international representative of ethnic Rohingya refugees, in Kutupalong, Bangladesh, Thursday, Sept. 30, 2021.

Credit: AP Photo/Shafiqur Rahman

Bangladeshi police have accused the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), a Islamic Rohingya insurgent group, of ordering last year's murder of the Rohingya activist Mohibullah, confirming fears of the group's reach within the refugee camps in southeastern Bangladesh.

Mohibullah, the head of the Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights (ARSPH), was shot and killed by unidentified gunmen in the Kutupalong refugee camp outside the town of Cox's Bazar last September.

The advocate's family immediately suspected the involvement of ARSA, an insurgent group in Myanmar's Rakhine State that is also active in the refugee camps that are dotted around Cox's Bazar.

Yesterday, BenarNews published an article quoting from a police report about the murder, which pinned the assassination on ARSA chief Ataullah Abu Ahmmar Jununi. The report claimed that Ataullah was displeased with Mohibullah's growing popularity within the camps, and that he believed the ARSPH stood in the way of its operations.

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4/29/23, 1:22 PM

Militant Group Responsible for Rohingya Advocate's Murder, Say Bangladeshi Police – The Diplomat

According to the police report, which was submitted to a court in Cox's Bazar district on Monday, Bangladeshi police have charged 29 "rogues" with the killing, all of them ARSA members, of whom 14 remain at large. ARSA denies any involvement in Mohibullah's murder.

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Kutupalong and the other camps around Cox's Bazar are home to around 1 million Muslim Rohingya, most of whom fled Myanmar in August 2017, when the Myanmar military launched a brutal offensive in the northern part of Rakhine State, razing villagers and driving some 745,000 people into Bangladesh. ARSA, whose attacks on Myanmar police outposts provided the *casus belli* for the Myanmar military's "clearance operation" has since become a dominant force in the loosely policed refugee camps around Cox's Bazar, and is accused of running narcotics and murdering political opponents.

The police report merely confirms what many had suspected about ARSA's involvement in the killing of Mohibullah. Back in 2019, Reuters reported that the advocate was facing increasing opposition from militants and religious conservatives within the camps, including members of ARSA, which is also known as Harakah al-Yaqin, "the movement of the faith." According to BenarNews, the police report marks the first official admission by Bangladeshi authorities that ARSA is present within the refugee camps, something that it had previously denied, despite all the evidence to the contrary.

The murder was likely motivated in part by disagreements over how best to advocate for the Rohingya refugees. Whereas groups like ARSPH favored incremental steps toward

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4/29/23, 1:22 PM

Militant Group Responsible for Rohingya Advocate's Murder, Say Bangladeshi Police – The Diplomat

improving the condition in the camps and working toward the voluntary repatriation of Rohingya communities to Rakhine State, and garnered considerable support from foreign governments and international institutions as a result, the ARSA advocated a harder line toward the Myanmar government.

“Ataullah Abu Ahmmar Jununi could not accept the leadership of Muhib Ullah,” the report stated. “He asked Muhib Ullah to stop the operation of his organization to promote the repatriation of the Rohingya. But he did not listen.”

The police report also suggests the possibility that personal jealousies weighed into the equation. According to the police report quoted by BenarNews, Ataullah asked Mohibullah to join ARSA and that he rejected the offer. Another researcher has [also pointed to the possible past connections](#) between Mohibullah and ARSA, suggesting a larger backstory to the grim occurrence.

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S. Kham and A Rahman, “Refugees: ARSA rebels threaten Rohingya leaders who push for repatriation”, *Radio Free Asia*, 25 August 2022

Available at:

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/bandladesh-rohingya-08252022035957.html>

Annex 454

5/7/23, 2:29 PM

Refugees: ARSA rebels threaten Rohingya leaders who push for repatriation — Radio Free Asia



Sections

Refugees: ARSA rebels threaten Rohingya leaders who push for repatriation

Residents of sprawling refugee camps along Bangladesh's border with Myanmar say crime and violence are spreading.

By Sharif Khiam and Abdur Rahman for BenarNews
2022.08.25



Members of the 16th Armed Police Battalion patrol at the Shalbon Rohingya Camp in Teknaf, a sub-district in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, July 16, 2022.

Five years after hundreds of thousands of Rohingya fled a brutal crackdown by Myanmar's military, refugees stuck at camps in southeastern Bangladesh say they feel increasingly unsafe as ARSA rebels and armed criminal gangs are targeting community leaders for attack.

Mohammed Jubair, who is among those leaders, says the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army has threatened him for his work as head of the Arakan Rohingya

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Refugees: ARSA rebels threaten Rohingya leaders who push for repatriation — Radio Free Asia

Security volunteer Mohammad Harun said ARSA wanted to make the madrassa a base camp, but madrassa chief Maulana Akiz did not agree and, as a result, was among the six killed.

“No one is safe from ARSA. In the camps where ARSA members stay, people are afraid to go out even during the day,” Harun told BenarNews.

Since the unprecedented exodus into southeastern Bangladesh, not a single Rohingya refugee has been repatriated, and the prospect of Rohingya going home to Rakhine is further complicated by post-coup violence in what is now junta-ruled Myanmar.

Now, five years on, Rohingya say they feel trapped because they have little freedom of movement in the camps and are largely barred from leaving their camps’ confines. About 27,400 others were transferred to Bhashan Char, an island in the Bay of Bengal where the Bangladesh government built housing for about 100,000 of the refugees. Those on the island have complained about being unable to leave to visit family members in the mainland camps.

Noting the five-year anniversary, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar called on the “international community to redouble its efforts to hold perpetrators accountable and deliver justice to the Rohingya inside and outside Myanmar.

“It is long past time for the entirety of the international community to call these attacks what they are – genocide. The Myanmar military has yet to be held to account for this ultimate crime,” Tom Andrews said in a news release issued on Wednesday, the eve of the anniversary.

“It is critical that, once and for all, the international community hold the Myanmar military accountable for its atrocities,” Andrews said.

Rohingya killed in camps

Police have said at least 121 Rohingya have been killed in the last five years at different camps in and around Cox’s Bazar, while 414 ARSA members have been arrested since Ullah’s killing.

Mohammad Kamran Hossain, additional superintendent of the 8th Armed Police Battalion, did not release details about ARSA’s presence in the camps.

“We are conducting drives to prevent crimes inside the Rohingya camps and root out the criminal groups including so-called ARSA,” he told BenarNews.

Hossain said about 11,000 Rohingya volunteers join police in patrolling the camps each night, adding that many of the volunteers are being victimized because of their efforts to alert police to ARSA activities

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/bandladesh-rohingya-08252022035957.html>

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Refugees: ARSA rebels threaten Rohingya leaders who push for repatriation — Radio Free Asia
THEIR EFFORTS TO ALERT POLICE TO ARSA ACTIVITIES.



A grave is prepared for Muhib Ullah, a Rohingya leader who was assassinated in the Kutapalong camp in Bangladesh, Sept. 31, 2021. Credit: AP

Still, the patrols are having a positive effect in the camps.

“The activities of the criminals are being hindered due to the active role of the Majhi [Rohingya leader] and volunteers in the camp. That is why rebel groups are angry and attack them,” Hossain said, adding no one involved in crimes against Rohingya would be exempt from prosecution.

BenarNews was unable to contact ARSA leaders for a comment in response to the allegations.

‘In fear’ at every moment

Human rights activists described the Rohingya leaders as educated people working for repatriation and against illegal drug dealings and other criminal activities.

“Many educated Rohingya leaders were already being killed by terrorists. Especially after the killing of Muhib Ullah, many English-speaking Rohingya leaders have become silent while few are active because of risks to their lives,” Khin Mong, founder of the Rohingya Youth Association and a resident of the Unchiprang camp in Cox’s Bazar, told BenarNews.

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Refugees: ARSA rebels threaten Rohingya leaders who push for repatriation — Radio Free Asia

Khin said he uses a pseudonym because of security concerns. While Ullah's killing shocked the world, ARSA had already killed other pro-repatriation leaders because the rebels sought to establish their leadership in the camps, Khin said.

"All of us who are working in favor of repatriation and against various crimes in the camps, including drug and human trafficking, are in fear of losing our lives every moment," Khin said.

Khin said pro-repatriation Rohingya leaders who were killed included Maulana Abdullah of the Jamtoli camp and Arif Ullah of the Balukhali camp in 2018; Mulovi Hasim in the Kutupalong camp and Abdul Matlab in the Leda camp in 2019; and Shawkat Ali in Kutupalong's Lambasia camp in May 2021.

He said the victims' families blamed ARSA for the killings.

Meanwhile, the executive director of Ain-O-Salish Kendra, the nation's leading human rights organization, questioned law enforcers' efforts to protect Rohingya.

"The level of risk for potential Rohingya leaders is increasing because the position of criminals is constantly strong in the camp area," Nur Khan Liton told BenarNews.

He noted that the closure of the ARSPH office and restrictions on the organization's leaders after Ullah's killing had added to the dangers faced by Rohingya.

ARSPH leader Jubair wrote to the U.N. refugee agency (UNHCR) last month, informing it about the risks that he and his family face, according to a copy of the letter obtained by BenarNews.

Along with Jubair, 17 Christian Rohingya families who have been in transit camps since January 2020 because of a reported ARSA attack sent a letter to UNHCR requesting protection.

"Authorities later rebuilt our houses, but we are still living here in a transit camp due to fear of ARSA," Saiful Islam Peter, one of 76 Christian Rohingya, told BenarNews.

Regina de la Portilla, a spokeswoman for UNHCR in Cox's Bazar, told BenarNews that it was providing support to Rohingya Christians, just as it supports all of the refugees in the camps.

"The Government of Bangladesh is responsible for ensuring safety and security for the Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshis living nearby, and so it is per their guidelines that refugees may move between and outside the camps," she said.

Teachers threatened

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/bandladesh-rohingya-08252022035957.html>

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Refugees: ARSA rebels threaten Rohingya leaders who push for repatriation — Radio Free Asia



Female members of 8th Armed Police Battalion speak with Rohingya women at the Kutupalong-Balukhali mega camp area in Ukhia, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, July 3, 2022. Credit: BenarNews

Observers noted that teachers, including Jubair, are facing their own threats from ARSA.

Rahmat Ullah, a teacher not related to Muhib Ullah who lives with his family at the Balukhali camp, was forced to leave Rakhine state because of his profession. Security volunteer Mohammad Harun said Rahmat Ullah was facing death and kidnapping threats here as well.

Asif Munir, an immigration and refugee affairs analyst, said the government must take some responsibility for the killings of Rohingya and other criminal activity in the camps.

“The authorities should be careful in this regard as the volunteers and organizers are now known enemies to rebel groups,” Munir told BenarNews.

Munir, who used to work as an official with the International Organization for Migration, said he was aware that many Rohingya youths hide from their camp homes at night because armed groups including ARSA can pressure or threaten them to join.

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/bandladesh-rohingya-08252022035957.html>

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Refugees: ARSA rebels threaten Rohingya leaders who push for repatriation — Radio Free Asia

A criminology and police science professor, meanwhile, expressed concern about a lack of coordination among security enforcers at the camps.

“The traditional policing will not work at Rohingya camps. The police should discuss with the people who are at risk or vulnerable,” Md. Omar Faruk told BenarNews.

“There is a kind of conflict between the privileged and disadvantaged Rohingya in the camps. Many Rohingya feel they are better off here than in Rakhine, while educated Rohingya with better status think they will be better off if they go back,” said Faruk of the Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University.

BenarNews is an RFA-affiliated news service.

Annex 455

IANS, “Terror attacks surge in parts of Yemen despite truce brokered by UN”,
Business Standard, 7 September 2022

Available at:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/terror-attacks-surge-in-parts-of-yemen-despite-truce-brokered-by-un-122090700495_1.html

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Terror attacks surge in parts of Yemen despite truce brokered by UN

The ongoing truce went into force on April 2 and was renewed for two months on June 2, and then extended for another 60 days on August 2

IANS | Sanaa



Photo: Twitter

3 min read Last Updated : Sep 07 2022 | 8:48 AM IST

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The number of attacks carried out by terror groups against the pro-government southern troops surged in various areas of the war-torn Yemen despite a recent truce brokered by the UN.

In the turbulent southern province of Abyan, militants of the Yemen-based Al Qaeda branch launched a large-scale attack and targeted a checkpoint manned by the newly-recruited Security Belt forces in the coastal district of Ahwar.

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4/29/23, 10:05 AM

Terror attacks surge in parts of Yemen despite truce brokered by UN

"The Al Qaeda militants used heavy weapons including grenades and attacked the southern Security Belt forces from different directions, killing at least 21 soldiers and injuring others," an official of Abyan's local government told Xinhua news agency on Tuesday.

The troops stationed in the area responded promptly following the attack and engaged in intense clashes with the terrorists, leaving eight of them killed, he added.

Hours after the attack, units of the local troops carried out a clearance operation targeting terrorists in the area, according to the official.

In a separate incident, a high-ranking military commander of the Southern Transitional Council (STC) was gunned down by a sniper of the Iran-backed Houthi rebel militia in the neighboring southern province of Lahj.

Also Read

Iran welcomes UN-backed two-month renewal of nationwide truce in Yemen

**Troubled tir
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"Hadar Al-Shawahity, commander of the 4th military division, was inspecting his forces stationed in Yafea's frontline when a Houthi sniper targeted him along with his bodyguards despite the ongoing truce," said an official of the Aden-based STC.

"The coordinated treacherous attacks targeting our forces across the southern areas will not deter us from continuing our fighting against terror groups including the Houthis and the Muslim Brotherhood-affiliated elements."

The ongoing truce went into force on April 2 and was renewed for two months on June 2, and then extended for another 60 days on August 2.

Although the truce has largely been upheld, a surge in terrorist attacks on the southern security forces in Yemen has recently been witnessed, as the country's newly-formed Presidential Leadership Council (PLC) backed by the Saudi Arabia-led coalition began deploying forces in the country's oil-rich province of Shabwa and other neighbouring areas.

Annex 456

Aljazeera, “Two Rohingya camp leaders killed in Bangladesh”, 16 October 2022

Available at:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/10/16/two-rohingya-camp-leaders-killed-in-bangladesh>



News | Rohingya

Two Rohingya camp leaders killed in Bangladesh

Police spokesman Faruk Ahmed says the two Rohingya leaders were killed at Camp 13 in one of the worst attacks in recent months.



A Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh [File: Showkat Shafi/Al Jazeera]

16 Oct 2022



A mob of a dozen people hacked to death two Rohingya community leaders in Bangladesh as security worsens in camps housing almost one million refugees.

Police spokesman Faruk Ahmed said the Rohingya leaders were killed late on Saturday at Camp 13, calling it one of the worst attacks in recent months.

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5/10/23, 2:01 AM

Two Rohingya camp leaders killed in Bangladesh | Rohingya News | Al Jazeera

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“More than a dozen Rohingya miscreants hacked Maulvi Mohammad Yunus, 38, who is the head majhi of Camp 13. They also killed Mohammad Anwar, 38, another majhi. Yunus died on the spot and Anwar died at a hospital,” said Ahmed.

“Majhi” is a term for a Rohingya camp leader.

A senior officer of an elite police unit tasked with security in the camps blamed the killings on the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), an armed group fighting the military in Myanmar.

“These are targeted killings by ARSA. The internal clashes in Myanmar are impacting the security situation in the camps,” he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The squalid settlements have seen escalating violence in recent months, with gangs trying to assert control over drug trafficking and intimidate the refugees' civilian leadership through killings and abductions.

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5/10/23, 2:01 AM

Two Rohingya camp leaders killed in Bangladesh | Rohingya News | Al Jazeera

'They killed my uncle'

Bangladesh has housed Rohingya refugees in a vast sprawl of camps since they fled a military crackdown in Myanmar in 2017 that is now the subject of a genocide investigation at the United Nations top court.

Gangs have long fought turf wars for control of the drug trade, centred on “yaba” methamphetamine pills, but the police chief of the Bangladeshi district of Cox’s Bazar said there was an escalation taking place.

“In the last three months alone at least 14 Rohingyas were murdered in the camps. The number of murders in the camp has increased compared to last year,” Mahfuzul Islam said.

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5/10/23, 2:01 AM

Two Rohingya camp leaders killed in Bangladesh | Rohingya News | Al Jazeera

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A Rohingya community leader and a nephew of one of those killed also blamed ARSA for the murders.

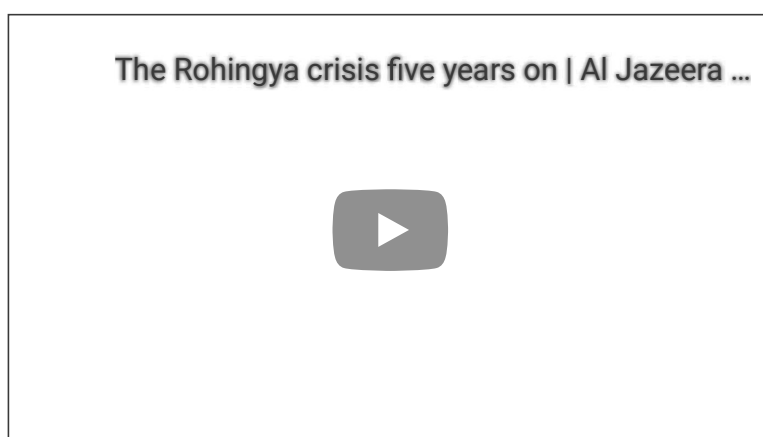
“ARSA killed my uncle last night. My uncle used to tell them not to deal in drugs. He would supervise voluntarily patrolling in the camps. They killed my uncle,” the nephew said, asking to remain anonymous out of fear for his safety.

ARSA has not publicly commented on Saturday’s killings.

Several of its members earlier this year were charged over the murder of top Rohingya leader Mohib Ullah in September last year. ARSA has denied its involvement.

The assassination sent shockwaves through the sprawling border settlements that house hundreds of thousands of stateless Rohingya refugees who fled a violent crackdown in neighbouring Myanmar.

The killing of Ullah, who had been received at the White House by then-President Donald Trump, also sparked a major crackdown by Bangladeshi authorities, with at least 8,000 suspected ARSA members arrested.



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5/10/23, 2:01 AM

Two Rohingya camp leaders killed in Bangladesh | Rohingya News | Al Jazeera

SOURCE: AL JAZEERA AND NEWS AGENCIES

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<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/10/16/two-rohingya-camp-leaders-killed-in-bangladesh>

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Daily Star, “ARSA presence at rohingya camps: Everybody knows Few dare speak”, 20 October 2022

Available at:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/rohingya-influx/news/arsa-presence-rohingya-camps-everybody-knows-few-dare-speak-2233966>

Arsa presence at rohingya camps: Everybody knows Few dare speak

"ARSA operatives are engaged in a wide array of crimes in the camps ... The Rohingyas know their faces but they are too afraid to say anything publicly."

— Habib Ullah brother of Mohib Ullah

All the 34 Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar have become hubs of organised and cross-border crimes. And it is the Arakan Rohingya Solidarity Army (ARSA) that is behind it all, say Rohingyas and intelligence sources.

[For all latest news, follow The Daily Star's Google News channel.](#)

Out to make the refugee camps its stronghold, the armed group is cashing in on lax law enforcement and the misery of the refugees.

After the killing of Rohingya leader Mohib Ullah and the six Rohingya men in October, the ARSA tightened its clutches even further, and the camp dwellers appear to have resigned themselves to fate: Fear and plight are not going to cease stalking them anytime soon.

"ARSA operatives are engaged in a wide array of crimes in the camps. They take absolute control of the camps at nighttime. The Rohingyas know their faces but they are too afraid to say anything publicly," Habib Ullah, brother of Mohib Ullah, told The Daily Star.

Echoing him, Noor Mohammad, another refugee, said the ARSA controls everything, from drug trafficking to extorting to hoarding relief goods. "There is no one to confront them and now they have established a tight grip on the camps."

However, the government and law enforcers maintain that the Rohingya insurgent group does not exist in Bangladesh and that some criminals might have falsely identified themselves as ARSA operatives to intimidate the general refugees.

"There is no ARSA presence in the camps. Those who say otherwise should be identified. It's a blatant lie. They have an evil agenda to portray the Rohingyas as

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criminals," said Naimul Haque, commander of 14th Armed Police Battalion (APBn), which is in charge of law enforcement at a portion of Rohingya camps.

The Rohingyas need to go out of the camps for medical purposes and to receive relief goods, he said. "Some of them take advantage of this and engage in drug dealing. We even recovered yaba even from their stomach."

Former foreign secretary Touhid Hossain believes that one of the reasons why the government officials refute the existence of ARSA in Cox's Bazar is for the interest of the repatriation of refugees. "As far as I know, Myanmar says there are many terrorists among Rohingyas and the country doesn't want to take them back. But Bangladesh maintains that there is no ARSA in the camps."

Prof Shahab Enam Khan of Jahangirnagar University's Department of International Relations said external forces that are against Rohingya repatriation are backing the insurgent group.

On August 25, 2017, ARSA claimed responsibility for attacks on police posts across northern Rakhine. The Myanmar military used the attacks as a pretext for carrying out a massive clampdown on Rohingyas, resulting in the region's most severe refugee crisis in decades.

Rohingya sources believe ARSA members killed Mohib Ullah and the six others to thwart the repatriation process and to send out a message of their strength as they seek to be a party to formal repatriation talks.

Besides drugs and human trafficking, extortion is a major source of money for the ARSA men.

They make around 15,000 shops pay them every week. Rohingya sources said there are around 500 madrasas in the camps. Most of the madrasas are controlled by an associate body of ARSA known as the Ulama Council.

The other influential group is Islami Mahas, which used to be controlled by Mohib Ullah.

Islami Mahas is against all sorts of criminal activities and in favour of repatriation while the Ulama Council controls drugs and human trafficking.

Since the assassination of Mohib Ullah, more than 250 Rohingyas were arrested on criminal charges. At least 114 of them claim to be ARSA men, APBn officers said.

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This correspondent talked to several dozen Rohingyas and their community leaders over the last few weeks. They spoke about ARSA on the condition of anonymity, as they fear reprisal by the group.

They said a huge number of ARSA members are agents of Myanmar and they get regular patronage from the Myanmar military.

"The ARSA operatives are working against repatriation as an agent of the Myanmar administration," said a community leader.

ARSA members claimed to be fighting for the rights of the Rohingyas and many commoners trusted them initially. But now the Rohingyas believe that ARSA is working as the agent of the Myanmar government and obstructing their return to their homeland, said many of the Rohingyas.

"The situation is so frightening that we cannot say publicly that we want to return to our home. Those who are talking about repatriation are being killed," said another community leader.

Popular leaders like the late Mohib Ullah, Arif Ullah, Abdur Rahim, Noor Alam, Hamid Ullah, and around 50 other Rohingya leaders have been killed since 2017. Family members of the assassinated leaders went into hiding fearing for their lives.

"ARSA is a terrorist organisation of the Myanmar government. They staged this drama and pushed one million Rohingyas to Bangladesh. Now they are trying to create obstacles to repatriation," said a Rohingya man in Balukhali camp.

Major General (Retd) ANM Muniruzzaman, president of Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS), said the problem stems from various criminal activities and there is a growing nexus between criminal operatives in drug smuggling, small arms smuggling, and human trafficking.

WHAT IS ARSA?

ARSA, which operates in Rakhine state in northern Myanmar, grabbed international attention in 2016 when it attacked three police outposts in the Maungdaw and Rathedaung townships in Myanmar, killing nine officers.

ARSA leader Ataulah Abu Amar Jununi defended the attack and said that there have been various crimes and atrocities committed against the Rohingya for over 75 years, reported BBC.

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He said ARSA carried out the attack to send a message that if the violence is not stopped, the ARSA has the right to defend itself. It said they are fighting on behalf of more than a million Rohingyas, who have been denied the most basic rights, including citizenship.

The Myanmar authorities said that the ARSA members are Muslim terrorists who want to impose Islamic rule.

The International Crisis Group (ICG) in a report in 2016 said the group was led by Rohingya people living in Saudi Arabia. The ICG says ARSA's leader is Ata Ullah, who was born in Pakistan and raised in Saudi Arabia.

Although there are confusions about the location of Ataullah, Rohingyas believe that he lives in Arakan and he keeps regular contact with his followers from there.

Former foreign secretary Touhid Hossain said, "My opinion is that ARSA has been working for the Myanmar military all along. I have also expressed this on a number of occasions. I think Bangladesh should take this line rather than deny what is obvious. It should take the bull by the horns."

Prof Shahab Enam Khan of Jahangirnagar University's Department of International Relations said ARSA is a dubious outfit that fits more within a criminal profile than an ideology-oriented entity.

"It has morphed itself as a Rohingya brand with the backing of external forces not supportive of repatriation of the Rohingyas. One newly emerged entity can't be a reason for Tatmadaw to embark on terminal cleaning of the Rohingyas that resulted in the expulsion of nearly a million Burmese people to Bangladesh. It's common sense."

Prof Khan, who works on the Rohingya issue, said the Myanmar narrative continues to label this dubious group as an extremist entity. Many fall into this narrative trap and find ARSA as an ideological representative of the Rohingyas, he added.

"The Tatmadaw discourse then aims to create an Islamophobic narrative which has its own appeal among vested interest groups. Hence, the ARSA actors that the Rohingyas see in the camps are multiple groups of thugs competing for resources under an ideological branding, more like using a franchise model of business, and therefore, serving the purpose against national and regional security and stability."

The IR professor said a very small segment of Rohingyas may endorse ARSA activities out of ignorance, but it should not be seen as a generalised phenomenon.

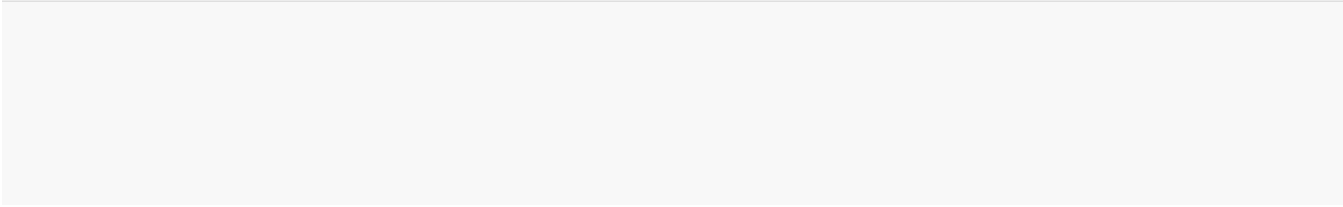
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France 24, “Welcome no more: Rohingya face backlash in Bangladesh”, 20 October 2022

Available at:

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20221020-welcome-no-more-rohingya-face-backlash-in-bangladesh>

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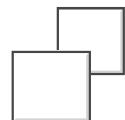


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Welcome no more: Rohingya face backlash in Bangladesh

Kutupalong (Bangladesh) (AFP) – **Rohingya refugee Noor Kamal found a sympathetic welcome in Bangladesh when he fled the soldiers rampaging through his village -- but five years later, the hostility he now faces has left him pondering a dangerous return home.**

Much has changed in the time since he and 750,000 other members of the stateless Muslim minority escaped neighbouring Myanmar, the survivors of a horrific crackdown now subject to a UN genocide probe.

Back then, thousands of Bangladeshis, outraged by the anti-Muslim violence across the border, trekked from across the country to distribute food and medicine to the shell-shocked arrivals.

But public attitudes have hardened after years of fruitless efforts to negotiate a safe return for the Rohingya, with media outlets and politicians regularly condemning refugees as drug runners and terror threats.

"There is so much hatred among local people and the press here that I worry it may trigger violence at any time," Kamal told AFP from his home in Bangladesh's sprawling border relief camps.

"It's better we return home even if it means we have to face bullets. If we die, at least we will be buried in our motherland."

Bangladesh has struggled to support the immense refugee population -- while there is financial assistance from the UN refugees body and other humanitarian organisations, Dhaka still faces huge administrative challenges in hosting the camps.

Bangladesh has struggled to support the sprawling refugee camps, despite financial assistance Munir uz Zaman AFP

Last year's military coup in Myanmar has made the prospects of a wholesale return even more remote.

ADVERTISING

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Welcome no more: Rohingya face backlash in Bangladesh

Last month, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the Rohingya camps had become both a deep burden on her country's economy and a threat to its political stability.

"If the problem persists... it may affect the security and stability of the entire region," she told the UN General Assembly in New York.

'Bringing shame to Bangladesh'

Resentment is widespread among Bangladeshis living near the camps, who say the Rohingya have overstayed their welcome.

"They are bringing shame to Bangladesh," Ayasur Rahman, the spokesman of a local civil society group campaigning against the Rohingya's presence, told AFP.

"They should be sent to Myanmar immediately," he said, accusing refugees of "snatching our jobs (and) stealing our passports".

Critics of the status quo like Ayasur Rahman (C), say it's time to send the Rohingya back to Myanmar Munir uz Zaman AFP

Critical commentary on security issues in the camps and their burden on public resources has also become a running feature of local media reportage.

In August, on the fifth anniversary of the crackdown that sparked the Rohingya exodus from Myanmar, a popular online news portal ran an opinion article asking: "How long will Bangladesh be punished for its benevolence?"

Another local media headline likened the presence of the Rohingya to a "cancerous tumour".

Negative media portrayals of the Rohingya have become so rampant that they caught the attention of former UN rights chief Michelle Bachelet, who toured the country in August as one of her final acts in office.

"I am very worried about increasing anti-Rohingya rhetoric in Bangladesh, stereotyping and scapegoating Rohingya as the source of crime and other problems," she said at the time.

'It is very hurtful'

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20221020-welcome-no-more-rohingya-face-backlash-in-bangladesh>[04/05/2023 14:52:50]

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Welcome no more: Rohingya face backlash in Bangladesh

Refugees acknowledge that violence and criminal activity exist within the Kutupalong camp network -- though it is the Rohingya themselves who are its chief victims.

The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), an Islamist militant group that has clashed with Myanmar's army in the past, has sought to entrench its control over the camps -- even murdering civil society leaders that could challenge its authority.

Refugees acknowledge there is crime in the camps, but say the Rohingya are the chief victims Munir uz Zaman AFP

Southern Bangladesh is also a hotspot for the regional methamphetamine trade originating in Myanmar, and Rohingya are often recruited as drug couriers for the influential local kingpins who control distribution networks.

The trade predates the 2017 Rohingya influx, but refugees say they have been largely blamed for the spread of drugs in Bangladesh, and condemned as criminals regardless of their involvement.

"Out of a million people, there are a handful of bad apples, but that doesn't justify calling the entire refugee community criminal," Rohingya refugee Abdul Mannan told AFP.

"It is very hurtful how we are being portrayed."

This year, a stuttering economy has saddled Bangladeshis with rising food prices and lengthy nationwide blackouts that have occasionally sparked violent protests.

Bangladesh also suffered its worst flooding in living memory during the latest monsoon, with millions of homes inundated and numerous villages cut off from the rest of the country.

The resulting hardships have helped erode the charitable sentiment that once compelled Bangladeshis to flock to the camps and offer help to refugees.

Bangladesh's own struggles have contributed to hardening sentiments against the Rohingya Munir uz zaman AFP

"The compassion that was demonstrated in 2017 and subsequent years has dwindled. It has been replaced with xenophobic rhetoric," said Ali Riaz, a professor of political science at Illinois State University who has written extensively on the Rohingya crisis.

"Fear and hatred are the key features," he told AFP. "Unfortunately, these are not in short supply."

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20221020-welcome-no-more-rohingya-face-backlash-in-bangladesh>[04/05/2023 14:52:50]

Annex 459

A. Foyez and S. Barua, “Bangladesh police crack down on criminals inside Rohingya camps”, *Radio Free Asia*, 31 October 2022

Available at:

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5/7/23, 2:15 PM

Bangladesh police crack down on criminals inside Rohingya camps — Radio Free Asia

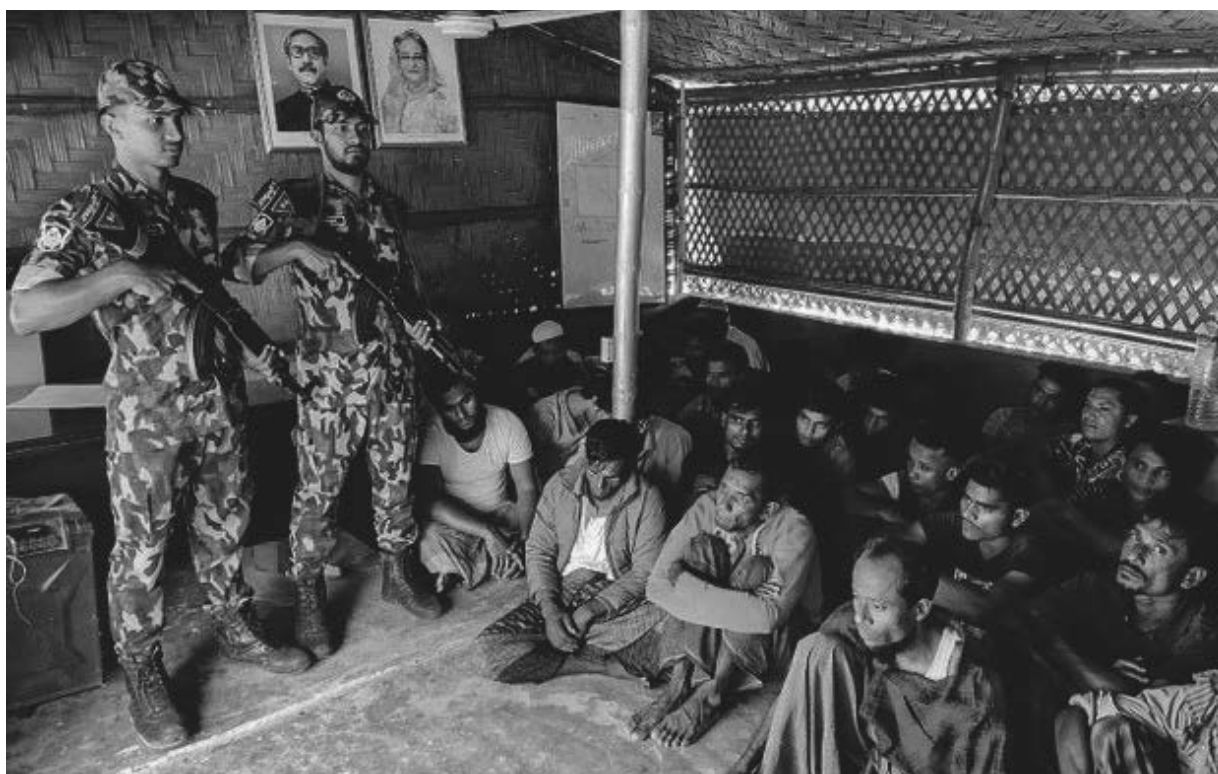


Sections

Bangladesh police crack down on criminals inside Rohingya camps

Authorities said concerns over lawlessness linked to armed groups coming from Myanmar led to 60 arrests.

Ahammad Foyez and Sunil Barua for BenarNews
2022.10.31



Bangladesh police guard detained Rohingya after a crackdown at a refugee camp in Ukhia, Cox's Bazar, Oct. 28, 2022.

Bangladesh police captured dozens of suspects after launching a crackdown in Cox's Bazar refugee camps this weekend against armed criminal groups linked to a wave of killings targeting Rohingya, officials said Monday.

Lawlessness by armed Rohingya groups has increased in the sprawling camps amid recent unrest across the border in Myanmar's Rakhine state, law enforcers and refugee community leaders said, with one police official even saying that Rohingya militants were using the camps as a safe haven.

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Bangladesh police crack down on criminals inside Rohingya camps — Radio Free Asia

At least five dozen suspects – all of them Rohingya – have been arrested since authorities began “Operation Root Out” on Friday, an official with the Armed Police Battalion (APBn) confirmed to BenarNews, an RFA-affiliated online news service.

The police launched the operation in response to killings of Rohingya that have struck fear among many in the refugee community of about 1 million, claiming at least 40 Rohingya lives since the start of 2022, according to police records.

“Fights have been going on between the junta army and a group for about 2½ months in Myanmar near the border with Bangladesh. For this reason, some Rohingya terrorists from the neighboring country have entered into Bangladesh and taken refuge in the refugee camps where they created unrest,” Md. Faruk Ahmed, a battalion assistant superintendent, told BenarNews.

“A total of 60 criminals have been arrested in two rounds of the drive,” he said.

Ahmed said 41 suspects were arrested on Saturday and 19 more Sunday night into Monday, adding that police would continue to arrest suspects.

“Out of the 19 people arrested in the operation, 12 are accused of robbery and seven are accused in other cases,” Faruk said.

Alleged members of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), a Rohingya insurgent group, have been observed targeting night watch security volunteers and community leaders in recent attacks at the camps.

Nine Rohingya, including a child, have been killed in suspected ARSA attacks this month alone, according to police and camp leaders.

Panic in camps

Rohingya, especially the camp leaders who have been pushing for repatriation to their home villages in Myanmar, said the recent attacks have terrorized the refugee population.

“I can’t explain to you what kind of fear I am in right now. There are three to four Majhis (Rohingya community leaders) here who enter the police camp every day after Asr prayers and leave in the morning. This is how our days are going,” said a Majhis in camp No. 9 in Balukhali who asked to remain anonymous over security concerns.

“Now not only ARSA, but some other groups including the Nabi Hossain Group, Munna Group and RSO [the Rohingya Solidarity Organization] are active in the camps. They are the ones who are causing the killings,” he said.

Another Rohingya leader blamed ARSA for killings and other crime in the camps.

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Bangladesh police crack down on criminals inside Rohingya camps — Radio Free Asia



Armed police battalion members participate in a special operation, “Operation Root Out,” at a Rohingya refugee camp in Ukha, Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, Oct. 29, 2022. Handout photo: Bangladesh Armed Police Battalion

“Although there are several groups in the Rohingya camps, ARSA is responsible for these crimes aimed at establishing absolute dominance in the camps,” Master Shafi Ullah, 50, a leader of the Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights in the Balukhali Camp, told BenarNews.

He said the ARSA members oppose Rohingya returning to Myanmar, so they are attacking and, in some cases, killing those who are pushing for repatriation.

“Everybody is afraid of what danger could befall them,” he said.

Myanmar apologizes

Meanwhile on Sunday, Myanmar Border Guard Police (BGP) officials expressed regret about recent firing along the border of Bangladesh, a Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) official said after a five-hour meeting in Teknaf, a sub-district of Cox’s Bazar.

BGB regional commanding officer Lt. Col. Sheikh Khalid Muhammad Iftekhhar said the Myanmar officials promised that the shelling would stop. Col. Cao Na Yan

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Show led the seven-member Myanmar delegation.

“We agreed to help each other in any need. We have also decided to work together to protect the bordering people on both sides,” he said.

Massive gunfire and shelling erupted along the border between Myanmar troops and members of the Arakan Army, another insurgent group in Rakhine state.

On Aug. 28, two shells fired by Myanmar landed in Bangladesh territory, leading officials in Dhaka to file a strong protest and summon the Myanmar ambassador.

BenarNews is an RFA-affiliated news service.

Annex 460

T. Ripon, “Targeted Killings Spread Terror in Rohingya Refugee Camps”, *The Diplomat*, 15 November 2022

Available at:

<https://thediplomat.com/2022/11/targeted-killings-spread-terror-in-rohingya-refugee-camps/>

THE | DIPLOMAT

FEATURES | SECURITY | SOUTHEAST ASIA

Targeted Killings Spread Terror in Rohingya Refugee Camps

Both Bangladesh police and Rohingya accuse the militant group ARSA of conducting a campaign of terror and crime in the refugee camps.

By **Tanbirul Miraj Ripon**
November 15, 2022

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Targeted Killings Spread Terror in Rohingya Refugee Camps – The Diplomat



In this Sept. 30, 2021, file photo, a grave is being prepared to bury Mohibullah, an international representative of ethnic Rohingya refugees, at the Rohingya refugee camp in Kutupalong, Bangladesh.

Credit: AP Photo/ Shafiqur Rahman

Elite police in Bangladesh launched a crackdown named “Operation Root Out” after targeted killings spiked in Rohingya camps. Police have arrested at least 90 Rohingya refugees, including 24 who were directly involved in the murders. Last October, six Rohingya community leaders and a child were killed in the camp, allegedly by the Myanmar-based armed organization Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA).

Farouk Ahmed, spokesperson of the Armed Police Battalion in charge of the camp’s security (APBN-8), told The Diplomat, “There were seven murders last month, so we started a crackdown named ‘Operation Root Out.’ Under that operation, we have arrested around 90 Rohingya who were involved in last month’s murders.”

He added, “ARSA is involved in these murders, and they are responsible for these murders... ARSA comes here from Myanmar and targets civil Rohingya leaders who work on repatriation.” In addition to murder, Ahmed claimed ARSA was involved in “murder,

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extortion, kidnapping, drug peddling, and human trafficking” in the camps.”

Militants of “the Islamic Mahad [another militant group] or ARSA enter the Rohingya camps and create conflict and chaos. They all are terrorists. We have started the crackdown to stabilize the order in the camp,” he said.

In the last four months, at least 20 Rohingya have been killed, mostly Rohingya community leaders. Bangladesh Police arrested at least 900 Rohingya terrorists from the camp in the previous six months.

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John Quinley III, an expert on human rights with Fortify Rights, confirmed to The Diplomat that leaders in the refugee camps have been killed in targeted attacks by non-state actors in the last few weeks.

“Our team at Fortify Rights has received reports, including photographic evidence from the aftermath of some of the killings that have taken place. Over the years, there have been killings, abductions, torture, and threats from non-state actors against Rohingya refugees, including human rights defenders.”

In 2017, ARSA attacked Myanmar Army security posts. The Myanmar army used that as a pretext to wage a bloody campaign against the Rohingya in Rakhine state, which the [United States](#) and [United Nations](#) have declared to be a genocide. To save their lives, 740,000 Rohingya fled Myanmar and took shelter in Bangladesh’s southeastern Cox’s Bazar district. The number of Rohingya refugees has increased to 920,000 in five years. These Rohingya are living in refugee camps in Bangladesh with limited livelihood rights.

On the night of October 26, a Rohingya named Mohammad Jasim was taken from his home

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and brutally killed. He lived in the Balukhali refugee camp in Ukhia.

Jasim's wife, Sophia Khatun (20), narrated how ARSA killed her husband before her eyes.

“After Jasim entered the house and sat down to eat rice, five masked armed men broke the door and entered the house with hammers and sticks. As soon as they saw my husband, they started saying, “We have been looking for you for a long time; we have found you today. Today your death is inevitable.” Armed terrorists were abusing Jasim, beating him. My husband hugged my mother and me, begging to be saved.

That night, about 60 Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army terrorists surrounded our house, all wearing masks. No Rohingya neighbors helped us. As I screamed, they hit my forehead hard with weapons, and I got an injury on my forehead. They also beat my brother with a stick. ARSA took my husband to the street near our house and brutally shot him dead after some scuffling with us.

ARSA terrorists killed my husband in front of my eyes. I asked them what my husband did wrong, and they said my husband was a traitor. The ARSA commander ordered us to kill him. He opposed ARSA's work... ARSA brutally killed my husband.”

Now Sophia despairs over her future and that of her children. “We took refuge in Bangladesh to live in peace, to escape the persecution of the Myanmar army. ARSA has destroyed all my means of survival. We got married in

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December 2017. Now I am a widow. I have two children. He was a daily laborer.”

ARSA, formerly known as Al-Yaqin, is not only killing people in the camps but is also accused of rape, extorting money from Rohingya to buy weapons, forcing Rohingya to join ARSA, and human trafficking. ARSA's name comes up first in cases of smuggling and gun fights with opposing militant groups. ARSA has become a name of terror for the Rohingya in the camp. It particularly seems to target Rohingya working for eventual repatriation to Myanmar.

Abdul Malek (a pseudonym), aged 40, told The Diplomat, “My daughter works in an NGO. We have to pay ARSA 2,000 (\$19.53) taka per month... With this money, they will buy weapons and fight against the Myanmar army.

“We didn't listen to them; one day, my daughter was picked up by the ARSA terrorists on her way back from the office. No Rohingya said anything, my daughter asked for so much help, and no one helped her. She was raped and released, but when I was going to file a case against them at the police station, they got that information, and they attacked me on the way and broke my hand.

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“ARSA will kill me if I file any case against them.”

Abdu Rashid (another pseudonym), 27, runs a private school in the camp and work for our community rights. “I just said that instead of killing ARSA Rohingya in the camps, they should fight against the Myanmar army for our rights. Then we will believe that they are working for our rights,” he told The Diplomat. “Now they are killing their own people in the camp. To say this, they vandalized my home. They kidnapped and tortured me inhumanly.”

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His family was only able to secure his release by paying a ransom of 300,000 taka (\$2,928).

“Now I stopped my activities; if I open my mouth again, they will kill me. They declared it.”

A Rohingya women leader also spoke to The Diplomat. Like the others, she wants to remain anonymous for security reasons. She recounted being forced to flee the camp for fear for her life.

“I have escaped from the camp, and now I am surviving outside the camp, renting a home from the host community. I don’t know how long I can do it – ARSA has threatened me several times. They are ready to kill me. They said I am a woman, women’s work is not activism, not working for repatriation. They will kill me for being vocal about the rights of our community in the camp.

“When ARSA killed our leader Mohibullah, they buried the future of the Rohingya that day. Now ARSA is trying to kill camp Majhis and Rohingya civil rights leaders. ARSA does not work for Rohingya. It has entered the field to wipe out Rohingya. No one is safe from them.”

In September 2021, an armed group killed Mohibullah, a top Rohingya leader who had been leading a campaign called “Going Home.” The goal was to allow Rohingya to return to Myanmar with rights and dignity.

Mohibullah’s family blamed ARSA for the murder, saying he was killed on the orders of ARSA commander Ataulah Abu Ammar Jununi.

“ARSA is making life miserable for the Rohingya who seek refuge in Bangladesh to save their lives. They are responsible for seven murders in one month. Everyone says they are involved in this murder,” Aung Kyaw Moe, an

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adviser on the human rights for the civilian National Unity Government, told The Diplomat. He said the NUG is collecting documentation “of all the misdeeds of ARSA,” including the murders in the camp. “There is a political motive behind the killing of all the leaders of the camp. We have got the information.”

Aung Kyaw Moe claims that ARSA is actually in collaboration with sections of the Myanmar military, and he insists that both the Myanmar Army and ARSA need to be held accountable. “Those who committed genocide against the Rohingya and those who associate with the Myanmar Army in carrying out the genocide against the Rohingya have to face justice as criminals. They will be brought to justice with the cooperation of the international community. We will not spare ARSA; they must also face justice because they are killing my Rohingya brothers, creating unrest in the camp.”

Shahidul Haque, a former Major General and previously Bangladesh’s defense attaché to Myanmar, agrees that ARSA is working more for the Myanmar military than for the Rohingya.

“What has ARSA done for the Rohingya? They have harmed the Rohingya more. They work in the interests of the Myanmar Army.”

Haque explained that the Myanmar army does not want the Rohingya to return from Bangladesh. ARSA seems to agree, based on its targeting of those who work for repatriation.

But ARSA is not the only armed group seeking to dominate the refugee camps. ARSA and Islamic Mahad, another Rohingya armed group, have allegedly had gunfights several times in the camps. Some Rohingya families living in Saudi Arabia help Islamic Mahad with financial support and weapons. The top

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leader of Islami Mahad claimed that Libyan militant organizations trained the group.

In October last year, ARSA attacked an Islamic seminary controlled by Islami Mahad at night, killing six, including students and teachers. A top leader of the organization claimed that they were mujahids of Islami Mahad.

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The Diplomat interviewed a top leader of Islamic Mahad, who denied that the group had engaged in any gunfights with ARSA in the camp.

The leader, speaking under the condition of anonymity, said, “Islamic Mahad does not engage in any conflict in the camp, and we do not commit any murders. We were attacked by ARSA in October of last year. Even though they killed our leaders, we do not consider anyone as an opponent... we will not engage in any conflict or take revenge.”

He claims that Islamic Mahad has “trained fighters to protect our rights... But we are not involved in killing and do not do robbery, rape, or kidnapping. Our militants are strictly instructed not to cause any chaos in camps. We have highly educated members.”

Quinley of Fortify Rights urges Bangladesh authorities to “prioritize refugee protection and work with UNCHR to provide protective spaces for those seeking safety in the camps. Dhaka should also work to give refugees access to livelihoods, education, and freedom of movement, creating a more rights-respecting environment in the camps.”

The Diplomat tried to contact ARSA through email and Twitter, but they did not respond. They have yet to make any statement against the accusations leveled against them for the seven murders last month.

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TAGS

Features Security Southeast Asia Myanmar

Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA)

Bangladesh Rohingya refugees Cox's Bazar

gang violence in Rohingya refugee camps Rohingya refugee camps

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A. Sinha, “Piloting the long-overdue repatriation”, *Dhaka Tribune*, 8 May 2023

Available at:

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/opinion/2023/05/08/piloting-the-long-overdue-repatriation>

Piloting the long-overdue repatriation

As with the model villages, Myanmar's suggested method for repatriating the Rohingya must be seamless, ongoing, and durable



Mahmud Hossain Opu

Anup Sinha

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According to the UNHCR, there are presently about 1 million Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh. Over 1,100 Rohingya refugees are currently the subject of a trial initiative that is being discussed. With China's assistance, Bangladesh and Myanmar hope to begin returning the Rohingya before the monsoon season.

For this reason, a delegation of 27 Rohingya and government representatives traveled to Myanmar on Friday to keep an eye on the situation in Rakhine. On Friday afternoon, the party traveled to 15 villages in the Rakhine area of Myanmar. The delegation's goal was to determine whether Myanmar offers a welcoming climate conducive to repatriation.

On March 15, 480 Rohingya belonging to 177 families were confirmed in Teknaf by a 22-member Myanmar delegation from Maungdaw, Rakhine State, Myanmar. From that list, a delegation of 20 Rohingya individuals was created. The Rohingya, however, reportedly did not perceive a welcoming environment for repatriation there.

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Bangladesh remains upbeat about the return of the Rohingya. According to the foreign ministry of Bangladesh, each family would receive a home in the model village, land for farming, fertilizer, and seeds after their return.

The Rohingya camps in Bangladesh are a lot worse than Maungdaw's model hamlet. For those families who choose to stay in the model village, each will be given an acre of land for farming. Rohingya children will have the chance to attend school as well as work and conduct business on their own. The model villages now contain hospitals, mosques, and playgrounds, which were previously absent from Rohingya settlements. This opportunity ought to be seized by the Rohingya.

Authorities in Myanmar have informed the Rohingya community that those arriving from Bangladesh will only be held at the Maungdaw transit facility for three days, then make a direct transfer to Model Village. Following that, the Rohingya will receive National Verification Certificates (NVCs) proving their citizenship in Myanmar. If you can prove that you are a resident of Myanmar and present the required paperwork, the National Identity Card (NID) will be granted in stages.

Some of the Rohingya delegation members protested the NVC during the tour and insisted that resettlement take place in Janmivita rather than NID and Model Village.

The Rohingya's companion delegation from Bangladesh expressed happiness with the surroundings. They stated that the environment and condition in Rakhine are extremely good and that more than 0.8 million Rohingya from other parts of Rakhine State crossed the Naf river and fled to Bangladesh six years ago, but that the Rohingya remained in Maungdaw.

Mohammad Mizanur Rahman, the commissioner for refugees, relief, and repatriation, served as the delegation's leader. He said, "We traveled to the countryside as well as Maungdaw City. We have spoken with the Rohingya there as well; the atmosphere is excellent. While hard at work, Rohingya can freely wander Maungdaw city. We are hopeful and eager to begin the repatriation of Rohingya. A delegation from Myanmar will return to Bangladesh to speak with the Rohingya."

According to Mohammad Chalim, the leader of the Rohingya group in Rakhine, "the Rohingya team has been given the opportunity to examine how much infrastructure has been developed to enable the repatriation to Rakhine in addition to touring 15 communities in Rakhine."

However, they want to bring in Rohingya with NBC cards (guest cards) without requiring them to give up their citizenship first. According to Myanmar's government, citizenship will be awarded six months after relocating there. In response, we have argued that citizenship should come first in the repatriation process.

The Rohingya's return to their own nation is crucial, though. A whole population cannot spend years in another country in refuge from another situation where they are denied their basic civil rights. They have the right to go back to their own nation, their own territory, and their own homes -- where they can exercise all of their civil rights to strive toward constructing a better life and future for themselves and their offspring.

The program might be considered as the beginning of the long-overdue repatriation, which can inspire more people to return home in the future. But we must remember that this is just the beginning. More people will follow and go back to their ancestral homes if the plan succeeds.

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Challenges faced in Bangladesh

The survival of more than 80% of the refugees in Cox's Bazar depends on charity from elsewhere. A monthly food ration of Tk1,030 is provided to each family. The difficulty of supporting a family with this amount was often emphasized by Rohingya.

On the other side, the surge of refugees has severely strained the environment and host communities in a nation with a high population density. According to a WFP assessment, the host populations in Cox's Bazar are equally as vulnerable and at risk of going hungry as the Rohingya.

The Rohingya may also be hesitant to go back out of fear that their rights would continue to be violated. The difficult issue for Bangladesh, however, would be how to manage this refugee crisis for a number of years to come, which would involve money, administration, inclusive and fair treatment of the refugee and host communities, as well as concerns about national security.

To send back refugees where both countries have historical experience and precedents to send Rohingya back, there is a need for a "pilot repatriation initiative." Since 1978, Bangladesh and Myanmar have resolved their differences with assistance from other nations.

Bangladesh's government and the majority of its citizens share the Rohingya's humanitarian concerns. We cannot, however, provide refuge for this enormous population for very long. Although our nation is small, it has a sizable population.

The Rohingya cannot consistently receive food, shelter, and medical care due to our limited economic capabilities. It is important to note that aid for the Rohingya is decreasing daily. The current Ukraine conflict has the entire world on edge. Although the world community has lost sight of the Rohingya humanitarian issue as a result of the war in Ukraine, it still exists.

According to reports, just 43% of the USD 881 million needed for the Joint Response Plan 2022 has been funded in 2022. The amount that was disbursed in 2021 represented 72% of the necessary USD 943 million.

800 arenas used for drug smuggling operate in Rohingya camps, where 123 people have died in fighting over the course of five years. In the Rohingya camps, extortion, murder, rape, and the sale of arms have all been documented. Internal anarchy is growing.

The decision to provide asylum to the Rohingya was an act of humanitarianism. The international community now has the duty to return them.

A connection based on trust

There are numerous social and environmental issues as well as pressure on our economy as a result of the Rohingya scenario. It is now necessary to focus on developing a trustworthy relationship with Myanmar. Bangladesh should endeavour to establish a rapport based on trust with Myanmar's people, the government, and the opposition -- regardless of which party is in power.

To increase Myanmar's trust, Bangladesh has already begun trading with them. However, this is not enough of an effort. Bangladesh has also sent representatives to Myanmar on their national day, met with their security forces, and sent aid to those affected by the tragedy there.

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It has been more than 20 years since the two nations last met at the highest level. From Bangladesh's independence in 1971 to 2000, there were 16 summit-level meetings with Myanmar. This indicates that there is no communication between the two nations.

Increased communication between the two nations' foreign ministers is necessary. In addition to the Rohingya, there are numerous other concerns between the two nations that at this time require additional discussion. In order to advance their own interests in the Rohingya issue, they should, if necessary, make compromises in other areas and forge a trusting relationship.

The discussion of a "conducive environment" is politically biased. The Junta is ensuring their security when it repatriates them. The Arakan Army (AA) and the National Unity Government (NUG) -- the other parties involved in Rakhine and Myanmar -- have already acknowledged the Rohingya.

Furthermore, because China is supporting the agreement, it is also obligated to offer an external guarantee for the protection of the Rohingya upon their return. Therefore, discussing the prospects of repatriation with the Junta might not be dangerous. The NGOs appear to be pushed by their own need to extend their "programs" and pinch their sponsors while highlighting the hardship of the refugee community.

In a nutshell, the repatriation plan will at least somewhat lessen Bangladesh's burden. The experimental project will improve relations between Bangladesh and Myanmar. The international community shouldn't oppose it; instead, they should go forward and actively participate in ensuring the prompt return of the remaining refugees.

The international community did not exert much pressure on the Junta to return the Rohingya. Prior to the Junta, the world likewise failed to persuade the democratically elected government to send the Rohingya home and prosecute the offenders.

For the past six years, Bangladesh has undertaken bilateral, trilateral, and multilateral negotiations in an effort to find a workable solution. Bangladesh is keen to examine the effort, especially now with China mediating the accord with UN permission.

The Rohingya are the most persecuted population of our time, and while Bangladesh, the Rohingya's protector on the international arena, is working tirelessly to bring them home, NGOs are not doing enough to help. Therefore, the Junta's readiness and China's engagement might be considered as a burden-sharing arrangement for Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is a desperate host looking for ways to lighten the load, while its international partners are only fulfilling their formal obligations within predetermined boundaries, due to the declining funding, deteriorating camp conditions, rising insecurity, and negative effects of the refugees on the host community. But some difficulties need to be addressed as well.

Myanmar must ensure that the return of Rohingya Muslims is continuous, dignified, and sustainable.

Myanmar needs to update its 1982 citizenship law. The Rohingya must be regarded as a recognized ethnic group in Myanmar.

A safe area for Rohingya must be provided.

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They must adhere to the demands or recommendations made by the Kofi Annan Commission (The Advisory Commission on Rakhine State) and the suggestions made by the Bangladeshi Prime Minister in the 74th, 75th, and 76th UN General Assemblies.

Analysts do caution Bangladesh to exercise caution if Myanmar decides to return 700 refugees. They have to uphold their promise. Myanmar must state that it would repatriate all Rohingya refugees who are stranded in Bangladesh.

They must be committed to making the process a continuous one. All Rohingya would be progressively repatriated.

Myanmar must treat Bangladesh as a friendly neighbour. Bangladesh and Myanmar are unable to influence their neighbours. In essence, Myanmar and Bangladesh must cooperate in a neighbourly manner. To settle the long-lasting Rohingya conflict, Myanmar and Bangladesh must improve their relations. The resolution of this regional humanitarian problem could be beneficial to South and Southeast Asia as a whole.

Myanmar needs to have goodwill in order to interact favourably with Bangladesh. The Rohingya situation needs to be resolved successfully and permanently, according to the entire globe. For the Rohingya people to return from Bangladesh to Myanmar with safety and dignity, a solution to the Rohingya problem is necessary.

Anup Sinha is a researcher specializing in South Asian affairs.

Annex 461bis

A. Foyez and A. Rahman, “Rights watchdog: Bangladesh failing to protect Rohingya against rising violence in camps”, *Benar News*, 13 July 2023

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Rights watchdog: Bangladesh failing to protect Rohingya against rising violence in camps

Ahammad Foyez and Abdur Rahman
2023.07.13
Dhaka and Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh



A view of the Jamtoli camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, where several such camps host close to 1 million Rohingya refugees, Aug. 22, 2018.

 [Dibyangshu Sarkar/AFP]

Bangladesh is not doing enough to protect Rohingya from increasing violence by armed groups and criminal gangs operating in the refugee camps near the country's border with Myanmar, Human Rights Watch said on Thursday.

Some of these stateless refugees who fled from persecution in Myanmar's Rakhine state are all the more vulnerable because Bangladeshi authorities force them to act as informants against criminal elements, the New York-based watchdog alleged in a new report.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's past pledges to protect Rohingya refugees are now threatened by violent groups and an indifferent justice system," said Meenakshi Ganguly, deputy Asia director at Human Rights Watch (HRW).

In response, the Bangladesh government and security officials acknowledged the

Annex 461bis

Rights watchdog: Bangladesh failing to protect Rohingya against rising violence in camps — BenarNews

difficulty of policing the camps in Cox's Bazar, a southeastern district where close to a million refugees live, but said they were doing their utmost to ensure safety. They also denied they were forcing anyone to act as informants.

HRW said it had documented 26 cases of violence against Rohingya, including murder, kidnapping, torture, rape and sexual assault, and forced marriage between January and April 2023.

“Authorities have been forcing Rohingya leaders to serve as informants, putting them at grave risk of being abducted or killed, without access to protection,” Human Rights Watch said in its report, adding that it interviewed 45 Rohingya and gathered supporting evidence, including police and medical reports, for its report.

Of the refugee population of nearly 1 million, about 740,000 Rohingya fled their home state of Rakhine for neighboring Bangladesh amid a brutal military crackdown in 2017.

Refugees told HRW that rebel groups such as the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and the Rohingya Solidarity Organization (RSO), and criminal groups such as the Munna gang, were the perpetrators of increasingly brutal crimes in the camps.

“Several majhis [community leaders] who were killed or attacked over the past year were targeted by alleged ARSA members who considered them informants for Bangladesh authorities,” the HRW report said.

“Majhis said that authorities forced them to take part in nighttime watches, to join police raids, and to identify members of armed groups, at times in front of the suspects.”

Rohingya cannot seek redress from police or courts when they have been victims of a crime, the report also said.

“Instead, they must approach Bangladesh administrative authorities or security forces in the camps. Several families said they could not get the required approval from the camp-in-charge, a Bangladesh official, to file a report with the police,” HRW said.

“Others said they obtained permission to bring a complaint to the Armed Police Battalion (APBn) but could go no further, as the force has no civilian investigative function. Refugees who did manage to register their case at a local police station said there was no follow-up, often because they could not cover the bribes and legal fees demanded.”

‘We face many challenges’

Providing full security in the sprawling but dense camps is a tough task, the government and the Armed Police Battalion said.

Bangladesh Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said that a large number of people, whom he described as terrorists, were responsible for criminal acts in the camps.

“While working for the security of the Rohingya, sometimes the members of our

<https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/bengali/rohingya-camps-security-worsens-hrw-07132023134949.html>[14/07/2023 11:43:57]

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Rights watchdog: Bangladesh failing to protect Rohingya against rising violence in camps — BenarNews

forces are also in danger,” he told BenarNews.

“It is not very easy to deal with the way crimes are being committed inside the camps. We have to gain a lot of momentum to fight it.”

He denied that the Rohingya had no access to the police or courts.

An ABPn Superintendent, whose battalion patrols in the Cox’s Bazar area, expressed similar sentiments.

“Being a densely populated area, we face many challenges in carrying out our duties in the camps. Yet we are carrying out our duties risking our lives,” said 8-APBn Superintendent of Police Farooq Ahmed.

He denied the police had forced any refugee to become informants for law enforcement.

“Many times the Rohingya leaders keep in touch with the law enforcement agencies for the sake of the security of their people,” he told BenarNews.

MORE >> BANGLADESH

Bangladesh police: Rival Rohingya militant groups in deadly gunfight at refugee camp

US, rights watchdog press Bangladesh to investigate union leader’s killing

Deadly dengue outbreaks strike Rohingya camps, Bangladesh cities

Bangladesh anti-graft-agency files charges in decade-old embezzlement case

UN to cut food rations again for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh

MOST READ

OTHER

Annex 462

Protection of Race and Religion Buddha Dhamma Parahita (Charitable)
Foundation, letter to Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee,
24 May 2018

Annex 462

Attachment C
Unofficial Translation

Buddha Dhamma Parahita Foundation (Central)
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Headquarters: Ywar Ma Pariyatti Monastery, Bayintnaung Road, Insein Township, Yangon Region, Ph. No: 09-250044612

To

The Chairman
State Samgha Maha Nayaka Committee
Kabar Aye Hillock, Yangon Region.

Date: 10th Waxing of Nayon 1384 ME (24 May 2018) Thursday

Subject: **Humble submission**

Regarding the above mentioned subject, during the State-level Conference on Protection of Race and Religion held on 3rd Waxing of Nayon, 1379 ME (28 May 2017) Sunday at Aung San Tawya Tat Oo Monastery, it was ratified under the guidance of the State Samgha Maha Nayaka Committee to rename **the Association for Protection of Race and Religion** as **Protection of Race and Religion Buddha Dhamma Parahita(Charitable) Foundation**.

The **Protection of Race and Religion Buddha Dhamma Parahita Foundation** is

- a. A kind of NGO, consisted of monks and the people, aimed purely to protect race and religion, and not a separate sect of Sangha organized in accordance with the rules and regulations set by the Organization of All-Sect of Samgha.
- b. Organized with the aim of assisting the Government and the State Samgha Maha Nayaka Committee in protection of race and religion.

Out of three plans of the Organization of All-Sect of Samgha, namely, 'To purify', 'To sustain' and 'To propagate', the **Protection of Race and Religion Buddha Dhamma Parahita Foundation** is willing to assist the State Samgha Maha Nayaka Committee in executing plans 'To sustain' and 'To propagate'. As such, we humbly request the State Samgha Maha Nayaka Committee to instruct and guide us as the venerable monks see fit.

Ti Law Kar Bi Wun Tha (State Samgha for admonishment)
Chairman, Buddha Dhamma Parahita Foundation (Central)
Ywar Ma Pariyatti Monastery, Insein Township, Yangon Region

နောက်ဆက်တွဲ (ဂ)



ဗုဒ္ဓဓမ္မ ပရဟိတ ဖောင်ဒေးရှင်း (ဗဟို)

ပြည်ထောင်စု သမ္မတ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်

ရုံးချုပ် - ရွာမပရိယတ္တိအသင်းတိုက်၊ ဘုရင်လမ်းအထက်ပိုင်း၊ အင်းစိန်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းတိုင်းဒေသကြီး၊ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်

ထံတော်သို့
ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ
နိုင်ငံတော်သံယမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့
ကမ္ဘာအေးကုန်းမြေ၊ ရန်ကင်းတိုင်းဒေသကြီး။

၁၅ ဖေဖော်ဝါရီ ၂၀၁၈



ရက်စွဲ- နယုန်လဆန်း ၁၀-ရက်၊ ၁၃၈၀-ပြည့်၊ (မေလ ၂၄၊ ၂၀၁၈) ကြာသပတေးနေ့။

အကြောင်းအရာ ။ ။ ရှိသေ့စွာ တင်ပြလျှောက်ထားခြင်း။

အကြောင်းအရာပါ ကိစ္စနှင့်ပတ်သက်၍ နယုန်လဆန်း ၃-ရက်၊ ၁၃၇၉-ခု၊ (မေလ ၂၈၊ ၂၀၁၇) တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တွင် အင်းစိန်မြို့နယ်၊ အောင်ဆန်း တောရတပ်ဦးကျောင်း၌ ကျင်းပသော နိုင်ငံလုံးဆိုင်ရာ အမျိုး ဘာသာ သာသနာစောင့်ရှောက်ရေး အစည်းအဝေးကြီးက နိုင်ငံတော်သံယမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့ကြီး၏ လမ်းညွှန်ချက် ဩဝါဒကို ခံယူပြီး ယခင် အမျိုး ဘာသာ သာသနာစောင့်ရှောက်ရေး (မဟာသ) အဖွဲ့အမည်ကို

အမျိုး ဘာသာ သာသနာ စောင့်ရှောက်ရေး ဗုဒ္ဓဓမ္မ ပရဟိတ ဖောင်ဒေးရှင်းအဖွဲ့ကြီး အမည်အဖြစ် ပြောင်းလဲလျက် အတည်ပြု ဖွဲ့စည်းခဲ့ကြောင်း ဆုံးဖြတ်ခဲ့ပါသည်။

အဆိုပါ အမျိုး ဘာသာ သာသနာ စောင့်ရှောက်ရေး ဗုဒ္ဓဓမ္မ ပရဟိတ ဖောင်ဒေးရှင်း အဖွဲ့ကြီးကို-

(က) ဝိုင်းပေါင်းစုံ သံယအဖွဲ့အစည်းကြီးက သတ်မှတ်ထားသော စည်းမျဉ်းစည်းကမ်းများနှင့်အညီ သံယဝိုင်းများမှ ဆီးခြား ဆံဃာအဖွဲ့အစည်း မဟုတ်အောင် အမျိုး ဘာသာ သာသနာစောင့်ရှောက်ရေးအတွက် သက်သက်သာဖြစ်သည့် ရဟန်း၊ ရှင်၊ လူ ပြည်သူများ ပါဝင်သော NGOအဖွဲ့ အစည်းမျိုးသာ ဖြစ်စေရန်၊

(ခ) အမျိုး ဘာသာ သာသနာစောင့်ရှောက်ရေးကိစ္စများ၌ နိုင်ငံတော်အဖိုးရနှင့် နိုင်ငံတော်သံယမဟာနာယက အဖွဲ့ကြီးအား စွမ်းနိုင်သလောက် ပံ့ပိုးကူညီသွားရန် စသည်တို့ကို ရည်ရွယ်၍ ဖွဲ့စည်းခဲ့ခြင်း ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

တပည့်တော်များ အမျိုး ဘာသာ သာသနာ စောင့်ရှောက်ရေး ဗုဒ္ဓဓမ္မ ပရဟိတ ဖောင်ဒေးရှင်းအဖွဲ့ကြီး သည် ဝိုင်းပေါင်းစုံ သံယအဖွဲ့အစည်းကြီး၏ သာသနာတော် ဆန့်ရှင်း၊ ဖာညီတို့၊ မြန်မာ့ရေး စီမံကိန်း ၃-ရပ်တွင် သာသနာတော် ဖာညီအံ့ရေး၊ မြန်မာ့ရေး လုပ်ငန်းများကို ဘုရားတပည့်တော်များအနေဖြင့် နိုင်ငံတော်သံယမဟာ နာယကအဖွဲ့ကြီးအား တစ်တပ်တစ်အား ပါဝင်ကူညီ ဆောင်ရွက်ပေးနိုင်ရန် နိုင်ငံတော်သံယမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့ကြီး၏ လမ်းညွှန်မှုကို ရယူလိုပါသည်ဘုရား၊ သို့အတွက်ကြောင့် လိုအပ်သလို လမ်းညွှန်မှု ပြုပေးပါရန် ရှိသေလေးစားစွာ တင်ပြ လျှောက်ထားအပ်ပါသည်ဘုရား။

(Signature)

၆/၈ (၉)
၆/၆

အိသောကာအိဝံသ (နိုင်ငံတော်ခြေခံဓါဒရိယ)
ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ၊ ဗုဒ္ဓဓမ္မ ပရဟိတ ဖောင်ဒေးရှင်း (ဗဟို)
ရွာမပရိယတ္တိသင်တိုက်၊ အင်းစိန်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းတိုင်းဒေသကြီး။

Annex 463

The Cove (Australian Army's professional development platform), "Advise, Assist and Enable in Iraq", 11 September 2018

Available at:

<https://cove.army.gov.au/article/advise-assist-and-enable-iraq>



ASW

Advise, Assist and Enable in Iraq

It's a human thing – how we supported the Iraqi Counter Terrorism Service mattered more than what we did.

by The Cove

11/09/2018

 < 30 mins  Cbt Arms

Over the fourteen months from September 2016 to November 2017, the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) wrestled their nation from the clutches of the Islamic State (IS) in some of the fiercest and most brutal urban combat experienced since World War Two. In May 2017, the Australian Special Operations Task Group (SOTG) Rotation VII took over the

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4/28/23, 4:48 PM

Advise, Assist and Enable in Iraq | The Cove

exhausting, close-quarter combat they endured was not lost on the coalition advisers, who demonstrated empathy as our partners excised the scourge of IS.



CTS on the advance through Mosul – Stahlgewitter Syrien / YouTube

TRAINING EFFECTS

In addition to supporting major clearance operations, the SOTG supported OPGEN training of 1 ISOF and the various CTS special missions units. The majority of this OPGEN training was conducted in an Iraqi training area in Baghdad. This training, which was conducted largely by Junior Non-Commissioned Officers (JNCOs) from within the Commando Company, was impressive. JNCOs planned, coordinated and executed up to Company level training in martial skills, including marksmanship, rural and urban manoeuvre, explosive and manual breaching techniques, and close quarter fighting. The training aperture was expanded to include a range of other non-martial skills which had a direct and tangible effect on the outcomes of major clearance operations, including plant operation (armoured bulldozer and front end loader), communications, intelligence analysis, operations planning, logistics (including deep maintenance and refit), combat engineering, counter-improvised explosive device procedures, and demolition of malfunctioned explosive ordnance training.

This balance of kinetic and non-kinetic skills transferred directly to the battlefield increased CTS' capacity and capability to defeat IS. The training also served to increase CTS' survivability, preserving them as the elite fighting element of the Iraqi military. The OPGEN training further reinforced the SOTG approach and Australia's commitment to the people of Iraq. The multitude of personal relationships established and enhanced across the various elements of CTS during the OPGEN training served to strengthen mutual trust and, like the main effort support to expeditionary operations, provided another layer of force protection to our soldiers operating outside the confines of a forward operating base or Baghdad.

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4/28/23, 4:48 PM

Advise, Assist and Enable in Iraq | The Cove



The CTS micro-combined arms team; D7 Armoured Bulldozer with an M1 Tank

You cannot surge trust. The SOTG approach developed immense trust with our Iraqi partners. Mutual respect and shared experience did provide us with a superior level of access, influence and understanding, despite not being engaged with them in close combat. The level of trust conferred us was another level of force protection, particularly during the occupation of Tactical Assembly Areas (TAA) in relatively remote and isolated locations within a high threat environment. This mitigated risk significantly. Mutual respect is of course not just an ingredient of successful partner relations; it is fundamental to an inclusive, collaborative and highly functioning task group. The age old adage of *'treat people as you like to be treated yourself'* goes a long way to achieving the best out of your people and partners, and ultimately mission success.

TACTICAL EFFECTS

The effects generated at the tactical level within the expeditionary elements of the TF were a combat multiplier. Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTAC), usually JNCOs, provided timely and accurate precision fires whilst often immersed in a chaotic and unpredictable environment, be that within the Fires Cell at a TAA or forward within either the Brigade or Division tactical HQ. Platoon Commanders and Platoon Sergeants engaged daily with star ranked Iraqi officers, often in the heat of major clearance operations, to provide tactful advice and sage counsel. Humility, empathy and patience were virtues vital to our successful interaction and support to our partner force. Developing and enhancing these skills is critical for Army. Consideration to include such elements in the officer and soldier all-corps training continuum is worth exploring. There was immense pressure placed on the junior leadership during these operations, particularly when CTS was suffering attrition and bogged down mid-clearance in complex urban terrain. CTS' 'thirst' for kinetic effects was insatiable.

The value of a senior soldier, such as the Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM), providing experienced and measured oversight and leadership in this type of threat environment,

Annex 464

Statista website, linking to an article by L. von Kameka, “Smartphone penetration in Myanmar from 2015 to 2016, by region”, 3 January 2023

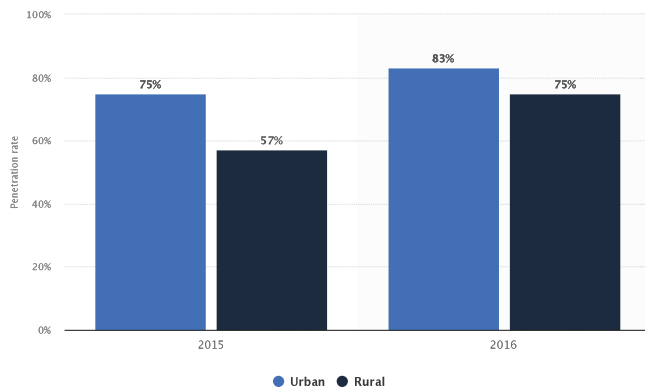
Available at:

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1063852/myanmar-smartphone-penetration-by-region/>

Technology & Telecommunications > Telecommunications

PREMIUM

Smartphone penetration in Myanmar from 2015 to 2016, by region



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- Use Ask Statista Research Service

Release date

February 2018

Region

Myanmar [Burma]

Survey time period

2015 to 2016

Citation formats

- View options

Additional Information

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Smartphone penetration in Myanmar 2015-2016, by region

Published by [Leander von Kameke](#), Jan 3, 2023

In 2016, the smartphone penetration rate was at 83 percent in urban areas and 75 percent in rural areas of Myanmar. In that year, the total smartphone penetration reached about 78 percent.

OTHER STATISTICS ON THE TOPIC

BRANDS & LEADERS
Most trusted smartphone brands in Finland 2020

SOFTWARE
Leading mobile operating systems in Finland 2021, by market share

TELECOMMUNICATIONS
Forecast of the smartphone user penetration rate in Finland 2018-2027

TELECOMMUNICATIONS
Mobile phone usage in Finland 2022

Annex 465

Annex not reproduced

Annex 465bis

Annex not reproduced

Annex 466

Images of “Bengali Sunni Jamae (Central) Mosque” or “Bengale Sunni Jameh Mosque”

Annex 466

Photos of “Bengali Sunni Jamae (Central) Mosque” or “Bengale Sunni Jameh Mosque” located in downtown Yangon



Front view (Close up) of the Main Signage of the Mosque

Source: Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Myanmar



Front view (Long Angle Shot) of the Mosque

Source: Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Myanmar

Annex 466

Photos of “Bengali Sunni Jamae (Central) Mosque” or “Bengale Sunni Jameh Mosque” located in downtown Yangon



Surroundings of the Mosque

Source: Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Myanmar



Annex 467

Example of a National Registration Card (NRC)

Annex 467

Unofficial Translation

The facts content in National Registration Card (Front)

| Additional remarks | | |
|--------------------|--------|---|
| Date | Remark | Designation and signature of authorized person for additional remarks |
| | | |

Photo and Office Seal

Form of Left Thumb and signature of applicant

Record Keeper
 Record Collector

Registration No. _____
 State/ Region _____ Street _____
 Township _____ Police station _____
 Town _____ Building No. _____
 Village tract _____ Home No. _____
 Village/ Ward _____ Floor No. _____
 Part _____ Room No. _____
 1. Name _____
 2. Father's Name _____
 3. Male/Female _____
 4. Date of Birth _____
 5. Place of Birth and type of citizen _____
 6. Occupation _____
 7. Marriage status _____
 8. Identified Mark _____

(Township Officer)
 (Department of Immigration and National Registration)

Annex 467

Unofficial Translation

The facts content in National Registration Card (Back)

Instructions

1. To keep the identity card safe and present it when requested by responsible person as prescribed in Article 29 of Residence of Myanmar Registration Rules, 1951.
2. Not to transfer the identity card.
3. To inform relevant record keeper in case of lost or damage illegibility of if the identity card.
4. Not allowed to do any amendment or markings on the card.
5. Not to have more than one identity card.
6. If the identity card is found, it must be submitted to the record-keeper immediately.
7. To surrender the identity card within seven days by the head of the household or one of the family members in case of the cardholder's death.
8. To inform relevant record keeper if someone travels more than one month from the registered address.

9. To notify the new address to the relevant record keeper within three days and turn in the identity card if someone changes the address. After the new address is updated, identity card shall be given back.
10. To notify the relevant record keeper in case of changes on the card.
11. To notify the relevant record keeper within seven days if a child is born or the child under one's guardianship becomes 12 years old.
12. To bring the identity card during travel to present when requested by responsible person.
13. Whosoever breach one of above mentioned instructions shall be sued in accordance with Section 6 (2) of Act, and if convicted, shall be punished for a term of two years or with fine of K. 500 or with both.



Union of Myanmar
Identity Card



Note. This card does not testify for the Citizenship of the card holder by bearing the statement of the holder's citizen status.

Annex 467

အမျိုးသားမှတ်ပုံတင်သက်သေခံကတ်ပြားပုံစံ (အရှေ့)

| ထပ်ဆင့်ရေးသားချက်များ | | မှတ်ပုံတင်အမှတ်စဉ် _____ |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| နေ့စွဲ | မှတ်ချက်များ | |
| | ထပ်ဆင့်ရေးမှတ်သွားရာရှိ၏ လက်မှတ်နှင့် ရာထူး | ပြည်နယ်/တိုင်း _____ လမ်း _____ မြို့နယ် _____ ရဲစခန်း _____ မြို့ _____ အဆောက်အဦအမှတ် _____ ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု _____ အိမ်အမှတ် _____ ကျေးရွာ/ရပ်ကွက် _____ အထပ်အမှတ် _____ အရပ် _____ အခန်းအမှတ် _____ ၁။ အမည် _____ ၂။ အဘအမည် _____ ၃။ ကျား/မ _____ ၄။ မွေးဖွားသည့်နေ့ရက် _____ ၅။ မွေးဖွားရာဒေသနှင့်နိုင်ငံသား _____ ၆။ အလုပ်အကိုင် _____ ၇။ အိမ်ထောင်ရေးအခြေအနေ _____ ၈။ သက်သေခံအမှတ်အသားများ _____ |
| | | <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> စာတံပုံနှင့်ရုံးတံဆိပ် လျှောက်ထားသူ၏လက်မှတ် နှင့် လက်ဝဲလက်ပုပ် |
| | | စာရင်းထိန်း _____ စာရင်းကောက် _____ (မြို့နယ်ဦးစီးဌာနမှ) (လူဝင်မှုကြီးကြပ်ရေးနှင့်အမျိုးသားမှတ်ပုံတင်ရေးဦးစီးဌာန) |

အမျိုးသားမှတ်ပုံတင်သက်သေခံကတ်ပြားပုံစံ (အနောက်)

ညွှန်ကြားချက်များ

၁။ ဤသက်သေခံကတ်ပြားကို သေချာစွာ သိမ်းဆည်းထားရမည်ဖြစ်ပြီး နည်းဥပဒေ ၂၉ တွင် ပြဋ္ဌာန်းသည့်အတိုင်း အာဏာရှိသူက တောင်းဆိုသည့်အခါ ထုတ်ပြုရမည်။

၂။ ဤသက်သေခံကတ်ပြားကို မလွဲပြောင်းရသို့ တည်းမဟုတ် မလွှဲအပ်ရ။

၃။ သက်သေခံကတ်ပြား ပျောက်ဆုံး သို့တည်းမဟုတ် ပျက်စီး သို့တည်းမဟုတ် မထင်မရှားဖြစ်လျှင် ဆိုင်ရာစာရင်းထိန်းထံ တိုင်ကြားရမည်။

၄။ သက်သေခံကတ်ပြားပေါ်တွင် မည်သည့်အမှတ်အသား၊ မည်သည့် ပြောင်းလွှဲချက်မျှ မပြုလုပ်ရ။

၅။ မိမိထံသို့ သက်သေခံကတ်ပြားတစ်ခုထက်ပို၍ မရှိစေရ။

၆။ သက်သေခံကတ်ပြားတစ်ခု တောက်ကျေ့ရလျှင် ချက်ချင်း စာရင်းထိန်းထံ သွားရောက် အပ်နှံရမည်။

၇။ အိမ်ထောင်ဦးစီးသည်၊ မိမိအိမ်သား တစ်ယောက် သေဆုံးခဲ့လျှင် ၎င်းသေဆုံးသူ၏ သက်သေခံကတ်ပြားကို ခုနှစ်ရက်အတွင်း စာရင်းထိန်းထံသို့ ပြန်လည် ပေးအပ်ရမည်။

၈။ မှတ်ပုံတင်ထားသည့် လိပ်စာနေရပ်မှ တစ်လထက်ပို၍ ခရီးထွက်လျှင် ထိုသို့ထွက်ခွာလာကြောင်းကို သက်ဆိုင်ရာ စာရင်းထိန်းများထံသို့ အကြောင်းကြားရမည်။


၉။ နေရပ်လိပ်စာပြောင်းလျှင် သုံးရက်အတွင်း နေရာသစ်၏ လိပ်စာကို စာရင်းထိန်းထံ အကြောင်းကြား၍ မိမိသက်သေခံလက်မှတ်ကို စာရင်းထိန်းအား ပေးအပ်ရမည်။ စာရင်းထိန်းက ပြောင်းလွှဲမှု မှတ်ပုံတင်ပြီးနောက် လက်မှတ်ကို ပြန်လည်ပေးလိမ့်မည်။

၁၀။ ဤကတ်ပြားပါ အကြောင်းအရာ ပြောင်းလွှဲချက် တစ်ခုခု ပေါ်ပေါက်ခဲ့သော်၊ ၎င်းပြောင်းလွှဲမှုများအတွက် စာရင်းထိန်းထံ အကြောင်းကြားရမည်။

၁၁။ ကလေးသားငယ် မွေးဖွားလျှင် လည်းကောင်း၊ မိမိအုပ်ထိန်းခံရသူ ကလေး ၁၂ နှစ် ပြည့်လာခဲ့လျှင် လည်းကောင်း ဆိုင်ရာ စာရင်းထိန်းထံသို့ ခုနှစ်ရက်အတွင်း အကြောင်းကြားမှတ်ပုံတင်ယူရမည်။

၁၂။ ခရီးသွားလျှင် သက်ဆိုင်ရာ မှတ်ပုံတင်အာဏာပိုင်များက တောင်းခံပါက ထုတ်ပြန်ရန် အလို့ငှါ၊ မိမိနှင့်အတူ ဤသက်သေခံကတ်ပြားကို ယူဆောင်သွားရမည်။

၁၃။ မည်သူမဆို အထက်ပါညွှန်ကြားချက်တစ်ခုခုကို ကျူးလွန်လျှင်၊ ထိုသူသည် အက်ဥပဒေပုဒ်မ ၆ (၂) အရ တရားဖွဲ့ဆိုခြင်းခံရမည်ဖြစ်ပြီး ထိုမှထင်ရှားစီရင်ခြင်းခံရလျှင်၊ ထိုသူကို နှစ်နှစ်ထိ ထောင်ဒဏ် ဖြစ်စေ၊ ၅၀၀၀ ထိ ငွေဒဏ်ဖြစ်စေ၊ ထောင်ဒဏ် ငွေဒဏ် နှစ်ရပ်လုံးဖြစ်စေ စီရင်ရမည်။



ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်

သက်သေခံကတ်ပြား

မှတ်ချက်။ ။မည်သည့် နိုင်ငံသားဟု ဖော်ပြခြင်းဖြင့် လက်မှတ်တိုင်ဆောင်သူသည် အထက်ဖော်ပြ ထိုနိုင်ငံသားဖြစ်ကြောင်း သက်သေခံအလျဉ်းမဖြစ်စေရ။

Annex 468

Annex not reproduced

Annex 469

Example of a National Verification Card (NVC)

Annex 469

The facts content in NVC (Front)

ထုတ်ပေးသည့်ရက်စွဲ၊ _____
Date of Issue

ကတ်ပြားအမှတ်စဉ် A 772063
Serial No.

ဓါတ်ပုံနှင့်
ရုံးတံဆိပ်
(၁.၂) x (၁.၄)

၁။ အမည် _____
Name

၂။ အဘအမည် _____
Father's Name

၃။ ကျား/မ _____
Sex

၄။ မွေးသက္ကရာဇ် _____
Date of Birth

၅။ မွေးဖွားရာဒေသ _____
Place of Birth

၆။ အလုပ်အကိုင် _____
Occupation

၇။ အိမ်ထောင်ရေးအခြေအနေ _____
Marital Status

၈။ ထင်ရှားသည့် အမှတ်အသား _____
Visible Mark

၉။ နေရပ်လိပ်စာ _____
Address

လျှောက်ထားသူလက်မှတ်နှင့်
လက်ဝဲလက်မပုံစံ
Signature and left hand thumb print

တိုက်နယ်မှုလက်မှတ်
Signature of Staff

ထုတ်ပေးသူလက်မှတ်
Signature

အမည်
ရာထူး

The facts content in NVC (Back)

ညွှန်ကြားချက်များ
INSTRUCTIONS

၁။ ဤသက်သေခံကတ်ပြားကို ခရီးသွားလာလျှင် မိမိနှင့်အတူ တစ်ပါတည်းယူဆောင်သွားရမည်။ အာဏာရှိသူက တောင်းဆိုသည့်အခါ ထုတ်ပြရမည်။
This identity card must be concomitantly carried whenever you travel, it must be shown whenever authorities request.

၂။ ဤသက်သေခံကတ်ပြားကို အခြားသူထံ မလွှဲပြောင်းရ။
The identity card is not transferable.

၃။ သက်သေခံကတ်ပြားပေါ်တွင် မည်သည့်အမှတ်အသား၊ မည်သည့် ပြောင်းလဲချက်မျှ မပြုလုပ်ရ။
No mark is allowed on the identity card and nothing is allowed to be changed except by the authorities.

ပြည်ထောင်စုသမ္မတမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

နိုင်ငံသားစိစစ်ခံရမည့်သူ၏ သက်သေခံကတ်ပြား
Identity Card for National Verification

မှတ်ချက်။ ဤသက်သေခံကတ်ပြားဖြင့်မည်သည့်နိုင်ငံသားဟု သက်သေခံခြင်းအလျဉ်း မဖြစ်စေရ။
ဤကတ်ပြားကိုဆောင်သူသည် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံသား ဥပဒေနှင့်အညီ နိုင်ငံသားလျှောက်ထားနိုင်သည်။

Note : This identity card does not testify to the citizenship status of the holder.
The card holder is entitled to apply for Citizenship in accordance with Myanmar Citizenship Law.

