

The Rohingya crisis in Myanmar

Forum: Human Rights Council

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Introduction

It has been more than 40 years since the Rohingya people have experienced appalling discrimination in Myanmar due to different religious beliefs, Rohingya being Muslim and Myanmar being a Buddhist country and the situations remain volatile. They could further deteriorate alongside the fears of limitations like the restrictions on freedom of movement, medication, and education. Hundreds of thousands of reported refugees have fled Myanmar to different countries including Bangladesh and India, still leaving a million people stateless. Nearly one point three million Rohingya people lack a legal identity, refugee status, and necessary assistance, which includes access to food, water, and healthcare.

Yet, few of these are being resolved due to the political and international ramifications. The government of Bangladesh and Myanmar are still refusing to take the Rohingya refugees as their citizens, forcing each other to take them as their citizens. In a situation like this, the Rohingya people are stateless and do not belong anywhere. Until the deterioration of the humanitarian situation is resolved, there also exist complex conflicts on different kinds of stereotypes, leaving the Rohingya people in the horror of discrimination.



Rohingyas getting attacked by local

Background

Rohingya people experienced discrimination when Myanmar achieved independence from the British in 1948, however, it has been more than four decades since the Rohingya people have suffered directly from violence and persecution in Myanmar leaving them with fears and challenges. The Rohingya people's fears of being stateless refugees without protection can be tracked back to 1982. 1982 was when the Rohingya people were denied citizenship and were not recognized as an official ethnic group, becoming one of the largest stateless populations in the world today. As these Muslim ethnic minorities stayed in a Buddhist country, they have successively faced violence in Myanmar since the early 1990s. Then the largest and fastest exodus broke out in Myanmar's Rakhine State in August 2017. The villages of the Rohingya people were set ablaze, entire families were killed, and



Destroyed Rohingya villages in Rakhine State

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women and girls faced sexual violence. Leading more than 742,000 people, mostly women, and children, to seek refuge in Bangladesh. Many walked by foot through jungles and undertook dangerous journeys through the sea for days to reach Bangladesh safely.

Problems Raised

Humanitarian Challenges in Refugee Camps

Ever since Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs), also referred to as the Rohingya community, became stateless and have fled Myanmar and settled in camps like the one in Bangladesh, the Kutupalong refugee camp, they are continually confronting difficult challenges. Given the worst habitation in the Kutupalong Refugee Camp, the refugees are constantly facing death caused by disasters that are made due to the fact that the camps are disposed to flooding and landslides during monsoons and the camp is built on steep hillsides. In addition, two years ago, on 22 March 2021, a fire broke out in Cox's Bazar refugee camp in Bangladesh and the cause of the fire is unknown. Due to the fire, 15 people died, 400 were missing and more than 10,000 homes were destroyed.

Food Insecurity

Food insecurity has always been a problem for the Rohingya people since they lost their citizenship. The Burmese government and the government of Myanmar have denied the Rohingya people access to agricultural lands, leaving the Rohingyas to rely only on support from the World Food Programme (WFP). However, there are limits for the WFP in helping them with supplies. It is typical for the WFP to face the ever-present weather issues in the particular region, which limits them from providing food to the Rohingya people in and out of Myanmar. Additionally, sometimes the WFP lacks data, where they lack providing food to the Rohingya people, which can depend on family sizes.

International Actions

26 September 2020 General Debate of the General Assembly's seventy-fifth session



General Debate of the General Assembly
considering COVID-19, food supplies, and vaccines.

During the 26 September 2020 General Debate of the General Assembly's seventy-fifth session, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh called for stronger international action in order to help the Rohingya refugees to return to their home country, which neighbors Bangladesh, Myanmar. Prime Minister Hasina has outlined the steps in addressing the crisis the Rohingya people have been going through. During the session, the Prime Minister mentioned the safety nets

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The newly signed Memorandum of Understanding

On October 9th, 2021, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, and the government of Bangladesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Bashan Char. Bashan Char is one of the isolated islands made largely sludgy from the Meghna River. With the UNHCR and the government of Bangladesh signing this document, there are serious issues concerning the safety of moving tens of thousands of refugees to the island, even though it is considered a welcome change that allows the UNHCR to monitor and includes real obligations to protect the refugees.

Burma Task Force USA

The Burma Task Force has achieved bringing awareness of the Rohingya crisis by making Barack Obama, the 44th president of the USA speak about the Rohingya crisis and provide advocacy for tormented Rohingya refugees in Thailand, India, Malaysia, and Bangladesh. Additionally, they are supporting an emerging democratic system in Myanmar to ensure the human rights of the Rohingya people.

Possible Solutions

Rations

The International community may work to provide the Rohingya people with specific supplies, such as water and food, by requesting the United Nations Environmental Programme Financial Initiative (UNEPFI) a collaboration with fundraising programs through the best appropriate methods such as donation programs for the Rohingya people. With this collaboration, Rohingya people can be supported with nutrients, as their current major foods are vegetables and fish.



Food supplies for Rohingya refugees

Regional Support

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) could help the Rohingya people who are fleeing from Myanmar through a managed program of moving them to neighboring countries such as India, Bangladesh, and Malaysia. By moving the Rohingya people to a neighboring country using the metric system program, the Rohingyas will have more access to freedom and supplies, such as food and houses.

However, moving the Rohingya people to neighboring countries would increase the number of people using public goods/services which would definitely lead to fewer job opportunities, which would become a second gateway that Rohingya people should face. Thus, would be beneficial to move a specific amount of people the neighboring countries could afford.

Targeting the Borders

NGOs such as UNHCR can provide humanitarian assistance for the Rohingya refugees for all new migrants crossing the border between Myanmar and the bordering countries with medical treatments, food, water, and protection and support from the government that are

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possible everywhere with the touch with the Global Compact on Refugees may be effective in dealing with the mass displacements that have occurred among the Rohingya people in Myanmar.

Glossary

Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs): The Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals, also referred to as the Rohingya community, are an ethnic group of people, most of whom are Muslim. They are people who are stateless and forced to flee from Myanmar.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): Internally Displaced Persons are people who have fled and left their homes but have not crossed the internationally recognized State Border. They have fled due to the effects of armed conflict, violence, and discrimination.

International Organization for Migration (IOM): The International Organization for Migrations was an organization that was established in 1951. This organization helps refugees and migrants by working very closely with the government and other parties. The IOM is successively sending in Cyclone Preparedness Programme volunteers so that they can straightway help host the community members.

Genocide: Genocide is the intended internationally recognized crime of violent acts toward the destruction of a specific people group.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF): An organization with doctors without borders supports people needing medical help.

Burma Task Force USA: A non-governmental organization that was established by the U.S. which is a coalition of 19 Muslim American organizations that puts the effort into stopping the genocide of Muslims in Burma.

Timeline

1977~78- Operation Dragon King arrests, persecute, and violence leading 200,000 Rohingya to Bangladesh.

1982- Government limits Rohingya citizenship.

1988- A brutal crackdown in Rakhine State by the military.

1989- Government requires people to apply for new identification cards called Citizenship Scrutiny Cards, but the Rohingya never receive them.

1991- The Burmese military launches Operation Pyi Thaya and MSF provides medical services in



MSF providing medical support

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nine refugee camps.

1992- The government creates a special border called NaSaKa, and Bangladesh and Myanmar signed an agreement to repatriate refugees, which sent hundreds of thousands of Rohingya back to Myanmar.

1994- The government denies new Rohingya children's birth certification.

2017- Rohingya militia attacks several police in Myanmar, however, state security forces launch a campaign of violence toward Rohingya. More than 6,700 Rohingya people died.

2018- There is an outbreak of Diphtheria in the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar.

2020- After the outbreak of COVID-19, the Bangladeshi government relocates some refugees to Bhasan Char.

2021- Rohingya people's freedom and job opportunities are restricted by the Bangladeshi authorities.

2022- Rohingya people are still living in shelters depending on aids without any better solutions.

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