

**HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE OF ROHINGYAS IN MYANMAR AND
INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE**

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Abstract

The Rohingya, largely Muslims, are an ethnic group from Myanmar. People belonging to this community have been facing discrimination, racism, human rights abuses and violence at the hands of Myanmar government for decades. Myanmar is one of the worst countries in the world when it comes to the matter of human rights. After the citizenship laws of 1982 took their citizenship away, they became stateless in their own country and lost all their rights. They are frequently subjected to many human rights abuses like forced labour, rape, torture, murder, arbitrary detentions etc. They also do not have freedom of movement, right to education and freedom of religion. UN has found evidence of genocide in Myanmar's policies. Ms. Yanghee Lee, UN's Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, has said that the crimes that have been committed in Myanmar constitute genocide. Many Rohingyas flee the country whenever there is a new wave of violence against them but their condition does not become any better as the neighbouring countries are not willing to give them asylum. Countries often reject the refugees and try to deport them back to Myanmar in violation of principle of non-refoulement. There are hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh where they live in camps which have appalling conditions. There is a lack of response from powerful nations as well, as they have their own strategic interests in Myanmar and does not want to upset the government. Hope for Rohingyas looks bleak unless there is a united global effort to put pressure on Myanmar to give the citizenship rights and all the other rights to the Rohingyas.

Introduction

In Myanmar, people of diverse religions and belonging to different ethnicities live. Rohingyas are one of the ethnic groups in Myanmar who mainly resides in the Rakhine (Arakan) State but the 1982 Citizenship Act has rendered these people stateless. Due to the widespread systematic abuse of human rights of Rohingyas by the Myanmar authorities, they have often sought refuge in other countries in the region and beyond.

When it comes to human rights, Myanmar's record has always been terrible. It has been termed as 'amongst the top five countries in the world where ethnic minorities are constantly under threat' by Minority Rights Group¹. A report by Freedom House identified Myanmar as "the worst of the worst" due to its awful human rights record². Rohingya Muslims have continuously suffered from severe human rights abuses under Burmese regime since 1978 and many of them have escaped to Bangladesh and other neighboring countries as a consequence.³

Rohingyas are considered to be "one of the most persecuted in the world".⁴ UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief reported in 1992 that since late 1989, Rohingya Muslims in the country have been subjected to persecution just because of their religion which involves torture, forced labour, extrajudicial executions, evictions, intimidation, arbitrary detention, gang-rape, forced disappearances, robbery, arson, land grabbing and population relocation as well as the organized demolition of towns and mosques.⁵ Burmese government policies are also responsible for the influx of refugees into the neighboring countries.

CITIZENSHIP

Burmese army general Ne Win passed Burma Citizenship Laws in 1982. This law made Rohingyas alien in their own country. The law did not count the Rohingyas as one of the ethnic groups in Burma to become citizens. As per the said law, whether a person will be granted

¹ Jatswan Singh, *International Responses to Human Rights Violations in Myanmar: The Case of the Rohingya*, JIS, January 2011.

² *Ibid.*

³ Myanmar: *The Rohingya Minority: Fundamental Rights Denied*, available at: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA16/005/2004> (last visited on 15 December, 2020).

⁴ *Supra* note 1.

⁵ UN Human Rights Council, *Report of the detailed findings of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar*, UN Doc. A/HRC/39/CRP.2, para. 100 (September 17, 2018).

citizenship or not is a political issue, decided by the concerned Ministry.⁶ The Rohingyas do not possess any rights to become citizens or nationals. Through this law, the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) recognized 135 national race of Burma, the Rohingyas are not one of them, and they were identified and declared as ‘Resident foreigners’.⁷ Hence, this law effectively took away all their rights and citizenship and made them stateless. Due to their statelessness, they are also called as ‘New Palestinians’.⁸ It is a clear violation of article 15 of UDHR according to which “Everyone has the right to a nationality” and will not “be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality”. The recent census undertaken by the Myanmar government in 2014 refused to even give recognition to Rohingya population in Rakhine.⁹ This exclusionary practice is a denial of the group’s very existence as a distinct people or even people worthy of state recognition as humans.¹⁰

FORCED LABOUR AND LOOTING OF PROPERTIES

In 1992 an inter-agency border force, Nay-Sat Kut-kwey Ye (NaSaKa), was formed which enforced several curbs on the rights of Rohingyas, such as forcing them to either pay a weekly fee or perform forced manual labour.¹¹ There have been multiple reports of the NaSaKa arbitrarily detaining people. In 2011, 2000 to 2500 Rohingya Muslims were detained by NaSaKa for crimes such as “repairing homes without permission”.¹²

By not giving them citizenship, Burmese government has deprived Rohingyas from all of their national rights, including the right to own land and property title and have subjected them to land confiscation and several other Human Rights cruelties.¹³ Report of Amnesty International 2004 disclosed that Rohingyas are forced to perform manual labour such as building and repairing roads, providing firewood in the military camps, building gas pipe lines, fetching water

⁶ Kurratul Ayin, “Nature of Human Rights Violation against the Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh and in Myanmar”, *SJL*, (2014).

⁷ *Ibid*.

⁸ *Supra note 1 at 6.*

⁹ William J. Jones, “Myanmar’s Rohingya: Human Rights Abuses and Systemic Violence”, *JUCR* 16-33 (2017)

¹⁰ *Ibid at 7.*

¹¹ Irish Centre for Human Rights, *Crimes Against Humanity in Western Burma: The Situation of the Rohingyas*, p. 41–49, (2010) available at: http://burmaactionireland.org/images/uploads/ICHR_Rohingya_Report_2010.pdf. (last visited on 20 December, 2020)

¹² Human Rights Watch, “The Government Could Have Stopped This” – Sectarian Violence and Ensuing Abuses in Burma’s Arakan State, 31 July 2012, available at: <https://www.hrw.org/report/2012/07/31/government-could-have-stopped/sectarian-violence-and-ensuing-abuses-burmas-arakan>. (last visited on 20 December, 2020)

¹³ *Supra note 6.*

bricks and perform sentry duties at night in their own village.¹⁴ They are forced by the administration to do mandatory free labour to construct 'Model Villages' in Arakan.¹⁵ Even elderly people and children are forcibly made to work and if someone refuses to perform their duties, they may be subjected to torture, rape or murder.¹⁶ Myanmar government has shamelessly continued this practice of forced labour even though it is a violation of Human Rights under International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966 Article 8(3a).

Extortion, looting and theft of money, livestock and property by NaSaKa, local military and police are a daily occurrence for the Rohingyas. They have been subjected to expulsion and forced eviction, relocation and arbitrary possession of their property and land. The government of Myanmar is the owner of all the land of its country and only citizen can acquire land use rights and since Rohingyas are not citizen, they cannot own land. Government of Myanmar has confiscated or uprooted their properties and relocated the Rohingyas to new areas from the place they have been living for decades.¹⁷ International Labour Organization has said that Myanmar is a model of slavery practice where forced labour is widely practiced.¹⁸ Since the 1960s, ILO has repeatedly asked Myanmar to stop this atrocious practice of forced manual labour.¹⁹

During 1991–92 over 250,000 Rohingyas escaped to Bangladesh. The refugees described prevalent human rights abuses like forced labour, torture, rape, summary executions etc. They were forcibly made to work in rough conditions without getting paid for it by the Burmese army.²⁰

MASSIVE KILLING, SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND PHYSICAL TORTURE

In 1977, an operation named Nagamin (Dragon king) was launched, which meant to make a record of citizens and identify resident foreigners.²¹ Its result was that by May 1978, over 200,000 Rohingyas had escaped to neighboring Bangladesh.²² The Rohingya women and children had been

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ Human Rights watch, *Burmese Refugees in Bangladesh: Still No Durable Solution*, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,HRW,COUNTRYREP,BGD,,3ae6a86f0,0.html>, (Last visited on 24 December, 2020).

¹⁶ *Supra* note 1.

¹⁷ *Supra* note 6.

¹⁸ International Labour Organisation, *Report on Forced labour in Myanmar (Burma)*, available at: http://www.ilibio.org/obl/docs/ILO_Rohingya.htm, (last visited on 10 December, 2020).

¹⁹ *Supra* note 9.

²⁰ *Supra* note 19

²¹ *Supra* note 6.

²² *Ibid.*

subjected to rape and sexual abuse by the army, local NaSaka soldier or even by Rakhine civilians.²³ For years Rohingya people have faced both armed and physical violence by the government and NaSaka. Mass arrest of Muslims, male and female, young and old, rape, torture and killing was a common feature.²⁴

In November 2016, another outbreak of violence emerged in Rakhine State. There were reports that the government had conducted security operations in Rakhine which lead to murders, sexual abuse, and burning down of homes and whole villages of Rohingyas.²⁵ On 25 August 2017, 12 officers were slayed by 'Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army'. This produced a 'clearance operation' as a revenge which was responsible for burning down of entire Rohingya villages, mass murders of innocent civilians including children and sexual violence against fleeing girls and women.²⁶

In April last year, Myanmar military launched airstrikes which resulted in killings of a number of residents including small children. People were arbitrarily detained and tortured by Myanmar armed forces over suspected connection with Arakan Army. Internet has been cut off and people are not getting any kind of humanitarian aid over COVID-19 pandemic.²⁷

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT & ACCESS TO COURT IN MYANMAR

Rohingyas cannot move freely outside the Arakan region. They have restrictions on going to any different region outside of Arakan. They have to get the local Peace and Development Council chairman's permission to go outside their village. It is clear that Myanmar violates Article 13 of UDHR and Article 12 of ICCPR. They are also in violation of Article 17 of their own constitution which ensures the right to freedom of movement.²⁸

Rohingyas are also deprived from the right to get justice and protection before law. Myanmar's constitution guarantees equality, freedom and right to religion to its citizens irrespective of birth,

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Equal Rights Trust, *Confined Spaces: Legal Protections for Rohingya in Bangladesh, Malaysia and Thailand*, p. 21, (December 2016).

²⁶ International Crisis Group, *Myanmar Tips into New Crisis after Rakhine State Attacks*, 27 August 2017, available at: <https://www.crisisgroup.org/asia/south-east-asia/myanmar/myanmar-tips-new-crisis-after-rakhine-state-attacks> (last visited on 20 December, 2020).

²⁷ Myanmar: Indiscriminate airstrikes kill civilians as Rakhine conflict worsens, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/07/myanmar-indiscriminate-airstrikes-kill-civilians-rakhine/> (last modified 7 July, 2020)

²⁸ *Supra note 6*

race, sex, and religion. But Rohingyas are the worst victim these fundamental rights' violation at the hands of Government of Myanmar. They also cannot enforce their rights under article 25 of the constitution by going to the Supreme Court. The very fact that they are stateless makes them incapable to stand in front of national jurisdictions and mechanisms for justice.²⁹

DEPRIVATION FROM EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS PRACTICE

Myanmar government has allowed Rohingyas to their state run schools but only for primary education. Beyond primary education they cannot seek secondary education because Government of Myanmar reserves secondary education only for its citizens. Government of Myanmar claims that it has literacy rate of 90 percent but a survey conducted in Bangladesh of Rohingya refugee camps found that less than 15 percent could actually read and write. Due to lack of citizenship, Rohingyas are not eligible for government jobs and are also not permitted to participate in local government.³⁰

With regards to freedom of religion of Rohingyas, who are predominantly Muslims, they do not have right to practice their religion with honor and dignity. They are not even allowed to build mosques. Rohingyas have also been warned to wear Muslim dress or to grow beard. In the year 1996, more than 50 mosques and madrassas were destroyed, and in May 2001, around 35-40 Muslim places of worship were demolished in Maungdaw town.³¹

It is the army who is responsible for spreading hatred against Rohingyas amongst the Buddhist population and as a result even the local Rakhines loathes the people belonging to Rohingya community. This has caused recurrent outbreaks of communal violence against Rohingyas by Buddhist community and sometimes these events are even organized by the ruling establishments.³² This well planned persecution of Rohingyas can be measured as an act equal to 'systematic racism'.

²⁹ *Supra note 9*

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ *Supra note 1.*

³² *Ibid.*

UN FINDINGS

UN Fact-Finding Mission found evidence of genocidal intent in policies and practices of Burmese government including its 1982 citizenship law.³³ Massive violence broke out in 2012 after news emerged of murder and rape of a Buddhist lady allegedly by 3 Muslim men. According to the estimate, that violence led to 140,000 people leaving their homes. This wave of Rohingya refugees was described by human rights groups and activists as ‘ethnic cleansing’ and ‘crimes against humanity’.³⁴ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) found that Rohingyas that remained in Myanmar were “experiencing conditions of forced starvation, with security forces denying access to the remaining rice fields and markets.”³⁵

Ms. Yanghee Lee, the UN’s Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, gathered extensive information of Myanmar’s policies and actions against Rohingyas. She documented cases of “attacks in which homes were set ablaze by security forces, in many cases with people trapped inside, and entire villages razed to the ground.” She reported families “witnessing their young children being thrown into fires”. She reported “security forces calling families out of their homes, separating men and boys to be executed in front of their families or taken away.” She also recounted the “testimony of women and girls being raped and then killed, some burned alive in their homes while unconscious or tied up.”³⁶ She concluded: “I am becoming more convinced that the crimes committed [in Myanmar] bear the hallmarks of genocide.” She has firmly said that Myanmar’s military chief and all other persons who were in charge “should be held accountable for genocide in Rakhine.”³⁷

Adama Dieng, UN’s Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide has also stated that, “Rohingya Muslims have been killed, tortured, raped, burnt alive and humiliated, solely because

³³ UN Human Rights Council, *Report of the detailed findings of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar*, UN Doc. A/HRC/39/CRP.2, para. 14 (September 17, 2018).

³⁴ Human Rights Watch, *Burma: End ‘Ethnic Cleansing’ of Rohingya Muslims: Unpunished Crimes Against Humanity, Humanitarian Crisis in Arakan State*, News release, 22 April 2013, available at: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2013/04/22/burma-end-ethnic-cleansing-rohingya-muslims> (last visited on 20 December, 2020).

³⁵ UN Human Rights Council, *Detailed findings of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar*, UN Doc. A/HRC/39/CRP.2, para. 158 (September 16, 2019).

³⁶ UN OHCHR, *Statement by Ms. Yanghee Lee, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar at the 37th session of the Human Rights Council (12 March 2018)*, available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22806&LangID=E>. (Last visited on December 20, 2020).

³⁷ *Ibid.*

of who they are. All the information indicates that the intent of the perpetrators was to cleanse northern Rakhine state of their existence, possibly even to destroy the Rohingya as such, which, if proven, would constitute the crime of genocide.”³⁸

UN Secretary General and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights have also described the atrocities and forced displacements as ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.³⁹ Mr. Darusman, chairman of UN Human Rights Council’s Independent International Fact-Finding Mission said in October 2018 that, “the situation in Myanmar is an ongoing genocide. Those who carried out the genocidal acts were officials and agents of the State of Myanmar, and were acting on its behalf.”⁴⁰ In September 2019, an additional report was issued by the UN Fact-Finding Mission which established its previous conclusion that Myanmar is accountable for the ‘commission of genocide’.⁴¹

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

(i) BANGLADESH

Since late 1970s, Rohingya refugees have continuously taken refuge in Bangladesh. But because of inadequate resources to handle the issue, Bangladesh’s authorities have often tried to just send back the refugees, sometimes even forcibly. There are some allegations against the government of Bangladesh by international agency especially by UNHCR that Bangladesh authorities force the Rohingya refugee to leave Bangladesh. One of the tactics adopted by Bangladesh was to secure its boundary with Myanmar by deploying a massive amount of troops. Myanmar government also responded by deploying more number of soldiers along the border as an effort to stop Bangladesh’s attempts in sending the Rohingya refugees back into Myanmar.⁴² Under the customary international law principle of non-refoulement, Bangladesh has an obligation not to

³⁸ UN Secretary-General, *Note to Correspondents: Statement by Adama Dieng, United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, on his visit to Bangladesh to assess the situation of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar (12 March 2018)*, available at <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents/2018-03-12/note-correspondents-statement-adama-dieng-united-nations>.

³⁹ *Supra* note 35.

⁴⁰ AP at the United Nations, “Rohingya genocide is still going on, says top UN investigator,” *The Guardian* (24 October 2018), available at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/oct/24/rohingya-genocide-is-still-going-on-says-top-un-investigator>. (Last visited on 20 December, 2020).

⁴¹ *Supra* note 37.

⁴² *Supra* note 6.

discard refugees when they are escaping from fears to their lives or threats to their fundamental rights and freedoms.

There are more than 800,000 Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar district in Bangladesh currently.⁴³ *Most of these refugees are living under appalling surroundings in provisional squatter camps, which most of the time do not even have elementary facilities like adequate food supply, shelters, health care facilities, clean water & sanitation, education, safety and security.* Bangladesh government has technically denied the right to be employed in gainful employment to refugee, as they are confined to their camps and restrict to go beyond the certain area or move freely. They had been punished by camp police for going outside the camps, even for urgent doctor's visit.⁴⁴ Bangladesh Rohingya Refugees have been victim of rape, sexual violence mainly by the local people, Rohingya men, police, and members of Border Guard Bangladesh but victim cannot get any access to the court of Bangladesh if victims try to get the protection before law, they face thousands of anomalies because of being refugees. On the other hand the Constitution of Bangladesh ensures everyone's rights to access to the court whether he or she is citizen or not. Hence the question of denying the refugees right to access to the court should not arise at all.⁴⁵

(ii) ASEAN

The Rohingya matter came into the attention of neighbouring countries for the first time around 30 years ago when around a quarter of a million Rohingyas ran away from Myanmar to Bangladesh due to fear of persecution. In 1992, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, the then Malaysian Foreign Minister, said that the issue "could no longer be regarded as Burma's domestic problem because the action by Burmese troops has burdened neighboring countries and may disrupt regional stability". Foreign Ministry of Singapore also expressed a similar sentiment that these large numbers of refugees can create an "area of instability for the region and human suffering".⁴⁶

ASEAN countries hold more than 100,000 Rohingya refugees. In 2015, the Rohingya crisis created a regional problem when 3 countries (Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand) rejected

⁴³ Conference on Sustaining Support for the Rohingya Refugee Response, available at <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2020/10/5f915c464/conference-sustaining-support-rohingya-refugee-response-22-october-2020.html> (last modified on 22 October 2020).

⁴⁴ *Supra* note 9.

⁴⁵ *Supra* note 6.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

overloaded vessels carrying hundreds of Rohingyas who were attempting to land on their shores, leaving them stranded in the high seas.⁴⁷ Both Malaysia and Thailand have not signed the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees or its 1967 protocol. This means that these refugees have no protection under law upon arriving in these countries. These refugees are frequently arrested, thrown into detention and deported back, making them really helpless and exposed to exploitation.⁴⁸

Although few ASEAN member-nations have, from time to time, criticized Myanmar's dreadful human rights performance, the organization, as a whole, does not have a definite strategy to manage this crisis. ASEAN has kept its course of action of non-interference when it comes to human rights abuse in Myanmar.⁴⁹

(iii) India

Some reports estimate that India had total 10,500 Rohingya refugees in 2015 which increased to 40,000 in next 2 years. In mid-2017 Indian government announced its intentions to deport these refugees. On 9 August 2017, Kiren Rijiju, the then Minister of State for Home Affairs, while replying to a query, said in Parliament that the government has plans to expel Rohingyas from India because they are 'illegal immigrants'.⁵⁰ Indian government's intention to de-incentivize Rohingyas entering into India is pretty clear with the treatment they are given.

India has although occasionally provided humanitarian assistance to Rohingyas. In September 2017, India announced 'Operation *Insaniyat*' to deliver relief support for the refugees present in Bangladesh.⁵¹ But there is a difference between the current government's attitude towards Rohingya refugees and former government's methods of treating the refugees. Current government has closed India's doors for Rohingyas, whereas previous governments used to welcome refugees. The government's main argument against Rohingyas is that they are a security threat which is unusual because historically India has never been looked upon refugees as a

⁴⁷ *Supra* note 1.

⁴⁸ *Supra* note 9.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

⁵⁰ *Who are Rohingya Muslims and why govt wants to deport 40,000 of them?*, available at <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/rohingya-muslim-india-myanmar-deportation-1029075-2017-08-10>, (last modified on August 10, 2017).

⁵¹ K. Yhome, "Examining India's Stance on the Rohingya Crisis", 247 *ORFIB* (July 2018).

security risk. India's cold approach towards this crisis has raised questions on its democratic morals.⁵²

LACK OF RESPONSE FROM POWERFUL NATIONS⁵³

Powerful nations such as China, US, Russia and India have focused on neglecting the Rohingya issue. In January 2020, International Court of Justice (ICJ) directed the government of Myanmar to take all essential steps to stop genocidal activities against Rohingyas. Although this order was a major milestone, any ruling of ICJ is practically useless without the UN Security Council's enforcement. But it's disappointing that no permanent member of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is prepared to go beyond offering monetary support.

Powerful countries like China, Russia and India have complicated relationship with their own native Muslim citizens. Therefore, taking any measure against Myanmar to protect Rohingyas can put the national policies of these states against their own Muslim populace into spotlight. In US, there exists a deep Islamophobia in American people. Therefore, a strong action by any of these countries against Myanmar may backfire.

Furthermore, Myanmar has massive oil and natural gas reserves which have made it into a strategic partner for powerful nations. Myanmar is important for China for its Belt and Road Initiative. Similarly, Russia and India's gas pipe lines and their investment in gas exploration and extraction projects in Myanmar have made the region a crucial strategic region. United States is also interested in forming strategic relations with Myanmar to keep a check on Chinese influence on its neighbouring countries. Moreover, India and China frequently associate with neighbouring countries like Myanmar to gain strategic advantage and offset each other's influence.

In terms of arms trade, India, Russia and China are Myanmar's top weaponries providers. It is likely that these powerful states are interested in maintaining friendly relationships with Myanmar in order to preserve their arms trade.

⁵² *Ibid.*

⁵³ *The ineffective international response to the Rohingya crisis- a paradox, available at [https://blog.politics.ox.ac.uk/the-ineffective-international-response-to-the-rohingya-crisis-%E2%94%80-a-paradox/#:~:text=In%20response%2C%20around%20800%2C000%20Rohingyas,and%20took%20shelter%20in%20Bangladesh.&text=Then%2C%20in%20late%20January%20of,genocidal%20acts%20against%20the%20Rohingya.\(last modified on 27 March, 2020\)](https://blog.politics.ox.ac.uk/the-ineffective-international-response-to-the-rohingya-crisis-%E2%94%80-a-paradox/#:~:text=In%20response%2C%20around%20800%2C000%20Rohingyas,and%20took%20shelter%20in%20Bangladesh.&text=Then%2C%20in%20late%20January%20of,genocidal%20acts%20against%20the%20Rohingya.(last%20modified%20on%2027%20March,%202020))*

It's clear that because of the conflicting strategic interests of influential countries, there is little scope for humanitarian interference in Myanmar. These powerful states do not have political willpower to put pressure on Myanmar to find a solution of this crisis in a sustainable and amicable way. The condition of Rohingyas will only worsen unless these powerful countries transform their approach to produce a united effort to get to a peaceful and viable solution to the problem.

Conclusion

In conclusion it can be said that Myanmar has violated every principle of UDHR, ICCPR, ICESCR and other fundamental human rights principles when it comes to Rohingyas. Myanmar has successfully created such an environment throughout the country where Rohingyas are left with no dignity, are disgraced, de-humanized and anyone can exploit them without any repercussion. By making the over 2 million Rohingya population stateless, Myanmar has efficiently made the whole community abandoned as no state has the capability or determination to intake so many refugees thus making them vulnerable at the hands of the state, human traffickers and other ethnic groups in their own homeland. The Rohingyas then have no other option but to leave the country.

Neighbouring countries where refugees have fled have tried to deport them back to Myanmar, violating the principle of non-refoulement, which is a part of customary international law. The international community should come together to collectively denounce the approach of these nations and apply pressure on these nations to obey their legal duties. Meanwhile, China has obstructed any effort to talk about Myanmar's offensive actions against Rohingyas at the UNSC, using its veto power to strengthen its relations with Myanmar government instead.

International community's answer to the situation has been woefully insufficient. The United Nations, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the United States and other countries and international organizations have issued standard condemnations. But criticism without any concrete action isn't enough. The global community should implement the following two steps to help Rohingyas. First, punitive actions, like tough sanctions should be imposed on Myanmar to demonstrate that all the nations firmly denounce the activities of Myanmar. Secondly, the global

community must implement strong strategy to improve the situation of Rohingya community by giving them humanitarian assistance and also helping them in providing asylum.

Any answer to this Rohingya crisis requires solving its core issues first, including the basic rights of the Rohingya people and recognition of Rohingya citizenship in Myanmar. Necessary steps which secure human rights of Rohingyas should be taken as soon as possible by Myanmar government. The immunity given to the Myanmar army also need to be addressed, if not internally, then through outside pressure. UN agencies should improve their coordination and increase the scale of their response, and international contributors should grant adequate funding for humanitarian aid.



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WORDS SPEAK
