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INDIA: STOP UNLAWFUL DEPORTATIONS AND PROTECT ROHINGYA REFUGEES

The Indian government must immediately halt all deportations of Rohingya men, women and children, recognize them as refugees and treat them with the dignity and protection they deserve under international human rights law, Amnesty International said ahead of World Refugee Day.

In just the last month, the Indian authorities allegedly deported at least 40 Rohingya refugees, including children and older people, by forcing them off a naval ship and giving them life jackets before abandoning them in international waters near Myanmar. In a separate incident, authorities also forced over 100 Rohingya refugees across the border into Bangladesh.

“From Zoroastrians and Tibetans to Afghans, Bangladeshis and Sri Lankan Tamils, India has long been a sanctuary for those fleeing persecution. But the Government of India’s recent



actions which includes dumping Rohingya refugees at sea and forcefully deporting refugees without following any due procedure, unfortunately betrays this proud tradition. History will remember how the government chose to treat the persecuted when they knocked on our door for safety,” said Aakar Patel, chair of the board of Amnesty International India.

“The Indian government treats us like criminals”
On 8 May, Indian authorities detained at least 40 Rohingya

refugees living in Delhi, many of whom held identification documents issued by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), according to their relatives who spoke with Amnesty International. The refugees were then blindfolded, flown to the far-off Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and transferred onto an Indian naval vessel. In the Andaman Sea, the refugees were allegedly given life jackets and forced into the water, leaving them with no choice but to attempt to swim to an island in Myanmar’s territory.

■ Source: amnesty.org

More News:

■ Crisis Group report: Armed Rohingyas to fight Arakan Army in Myanmar

■ Source: dhakatribune.com



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GHMC TO TRACK ROHINGYA BIRTHS AND DEATHS WITH UNHCR TAGS

The GHMC will now record details of newborns and deceased individuals from Rohingya families in a separate database, tagging their records with a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) identifier.

The decision comes amid concerns over documentation misuse and follows instructions from the Intelligence department to help track Rohingya refugees residing in the city. Officials said this identifier will be embedded in GHMC records for internal verification but will not appear on official birth or death certificates issued to the Rohingya population. Hyderabad is home to over 20,000 Rohingya people, mostly settled in Bandlaguda, Barkas, Balapur and nearby areas. The UNHCR and its local partner, Modern Architects for Rural India (MARI), offer support and services to these refugees and asylum-seekers. Sources told TNIE that intelligence officials met GHMC authorities on Monday and discussed how to monitor the documentation issued to the refugee group originally from the Rakhine state of Myanmar.

■ Source: newindianexpress.com

ARAKAN ARMY MAY BE AN UNEXPECTED ALLY FOR THE ROHINGYA: DR. AZEEM IBRAHIM

In a striking twist of geopolitical irony, one of the most persecuted Muslim communities in the world — the Rohingya — may find their most realistic path home not through the government of Myanmar or through international institutions, but via an unlikely actor: the Arakan Army.

Long viewed with suspicion by the Rohingya themselves and largely ignored by the international community, the Arakan Army has, over the past two years, emerged as the dominant power in Rakhine State. With the Myanmar military regime in rapid retreat and the national unity government struggling to assert territorial control, the Arakan Army now governs 11 of Rakhine’s 18 townships. For all intents and purposes, it is the authority that now decides who may live — and return — to western Myanmar.

This new reality should not be underestimated. For years, the global response to the Rohingya crisis has hinged on repatriation through negotiations with Myanmar’s military or by placing pressure on the Association of Southeast Nations and the UN. Those efforts have categorically failed.

Two rounds of repatriation since 2017 — one under the UN and another led by China — resulted in zero returns. The refugees in Bangladesh are disillusioned, aid is running dry and extremism is beginning to fester in the camps. As Prime Minister Mohammed Yunus of Bangladesh warned last week at Chatham House, without urgent action “an explosion is imminent.”

It is precisely this urgency that demands a recalibrated approach. The Arakan Army is not an ideal partner. It has, at times, rejected the term “Rohingya” and its historical relationship with Muslim communities in Rakhine has been tense. But power transforms actors and the Arakan Army’s recent statements — including those by its Commander-in-Chief Twan Mrat Naing — show a remarkable evolution in tone. The group has indicated it is open to the idea of peaceful coexistence, rule of law and even a phased return of refugees — provided certain conditions are met. In other words, it has moved from being a militant liberation movement to a proto-state willing to talk about governance...

■ Source: arabnews.com