

ROHINGYA PRESS

COVERING THE ROHINGYA STORY – AS IT HAPPENS WWW.ROHINGYAPRESS.COM

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS OFFER HOPE FOR ROHINGYA REFUGEE CHILDREN AS US AID CUTS HIT EDUCATION

As US aid cuts have forced the UN’s children agency UNICEF to suspend thousands of learning centers for Rohingya refugee children sheltering in camps in Bangladesh, a small number of community-led schools have now become their only source of education.

The Rohingya, a mostly Muslim ethnic minority, have fled from Myanmar’s Rakhine State to neighboring Bangladesh for decades to escape persecution, with more than 700,000 arriving in 2017 following a military crackdown that the UN said was a textbook case of ethnic cleansing by Myanmar. Today, more than 1.3 million Rohingya on Bangladesh’s southeast coast are cramped inside 33 camps in Cox’s Bazar – the world’s largest refugee settlement. The refugees, who are almost completely reliant on humanitarian aid, recently faced another blow, after the US suspended aid funding worldwide in January. Washington has been the



largest donor, having contributed \$300 million in 2024, or 55 percent of all foreign aid for the Rohingya. Those and other foreign aid cuts “have worsened the already existing education crisis for 437,000 school-age children in Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh,” Human Rights Watch said in a report published this week.

It is only in schools established by the Rohingya community that some children are able to get their education now, the group said, after UNICEF-run learning centers were forced to shut due to a lack of funding. These schools offer a small glimmer of hope for many young children in the refugee camps.

“School is important for me because it gives me knowledge, enhances my life skills, makes me think for my community, makes me a better person and makes me hopeful for a better future. As a refugee, I don’t have many opportunities, but education can open doors for me and help me build a better life,” Mohammed Shofik, a 15-year-old Rohingya boy enrolled at a community school in Cox’s Bazar, told Arab News on Friday. But only a small number of Rohingya children are able to enroll in the community-led schools, as they do not receive any charitable support, Arif Salam, a teacher in one such school in the camps, told Arab News. “Community schools are not funded by any donors and NGOs. Our only funding source is the tuition fees received from the parents of our students. But we can’t provide services to all the children,” he said.

Source: arabnews.com

More News:

- BSF pushes 31 people, including 14 Rohingyas into Sylhet
- Young man's leg amputated in another landmine explosion in Naikyanchhari



SCAN THIS QR CODE
TO READ FULL NEWS
ARTICLES, REPORTS
ETC. IN DETAILS.

HUMANITARIAN CORRIDOR AND THE PRINCIPLE OF SAFE PASSAGE

Opinion by Sakhawat Sajjat Sejan (Assistant Professor, Department of Law, European University of Bangladesh.)

A humanitarian corridor is designated as a pathway to the persecuted and affected community in conflict zones during humanitarian crises. It is generally used to transport aid and other necessary support to a blocked region. In the case of Myanmar, the junta government has blocked communications with the Arakan Army-occupied Rakhine State and prohibited the transportation of aid. As a result, any international aid or even United Nations (UN) officials have been unable to reach the region to support the remaining 0.6 million Rohingya. Considering the complicated case of the Rohingya crisis, the UN has requested Bangladesh to approve a humanitarian corridor to facilitate the dignified return and transport humanitarian aid to the ailing Rohingya. From a legal point of view, the humanitarian corridor has emerged from the principle of safe passage of international humanitarian and refugee law -- the principle ensures the protected movement of civilians, aid workers, and accession of humanitarian assistance in the conflict zones or borders. Practically, the principle of safe passage can be applied in three different forms:

- a) Humanitarian corridors;
 - b) evacuation and resettlement routes (clearing civilians from conflict zones); and
 - c) safe zones (creating safe havens for the refugees through the passage).
- It is worth mentioning that humanitarian corridors have not emerged out of the blue, it is deep rooted in the practices of international humanitarian and human rights law. Apart from the principle of safe passage, the principle of responsibility to protect (R2P) and the principle of distinction also advocate for humanitarian corridors.

R2P is invoked by the international community, when the government of a state is unable to protect or waive the means of protection for a certain community. Whereas the principle of distinction advises to distinguish between civilians and combatants to ensure protection of the latter by the international community. This principle has its foundation laid in the article 48 of the Additional Protocol I of the Geneva Conventions.

The principle of non-refoulement also supports propositions of humanitarian corridors to

discourage forced return of the refugees. To assert, humanitarian corridors can also be considered as a principle of customary international law by assessing its roots in international human rights, and refugee and humanitarian law. So, it is legitimate, permissible, and practicable to ask for humanitarian corridors.

Many of the international and regional courts' decisions have been given in favour of this. The case of Gambia v Myanmar has granted provisional measures which require the need of such a corridor in absence of any communication to ensure the dignified, safe, and voluntary return of Rohingya. The ICJ Advisory Opinion on Constructing the Wall in 2004 by Israel in occupied Palestine also stressed on ensuring access to humanitarian assistance through freedom of movement. The above-stated cases suggest that Bangladesh comes under a soft obligation of international law to provide a humanitarian corridor under three reasonable grounds: Bangladesh is the geographic dead end and only recipient state in the region; The country is an avid follower of international law;

■ Source: dhakatribune.com