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ICC URGED TO PROBE ARAKAN ARMY WAR CRIMES AGAINST ROHINGYA



The International Criminal Court (ICC) should investigate the Arakan Army (AA) for alleged war crimes against Rohingya civilians in Myanmar’s Rakhine State, including abductions, torture, killings, and beheadings, rights watchdog Fortify Rights said recently.

A new investigation by the Bangkok-based rights group accuses the powerful ethnic armed group, which currently controls much of Rakhine, of committing serious violations of international humanitarian law in villages and ad hoc detention centres under its

control. “The Arakan Army is responsible for widespread abductions, brutal torture, and the murder of Rohingya, some of whom were found beheaded, in blatant violation of the laws of war,” said Ejaz Min Khant, Human Rights Specialist at Fortify Rights.

Fortify Rights said it interviewed 39 Rohingya survivors and witnesses—including eight women—from April to July this year, in addition to verifying photographic and video evidence of the alleged crimes.

Killings and beheadings

One Rohingya man, identified by a pseudonym “Ahmed,” recounted how AA fighters abducted his brother during Ramadan this year. Days later, the family discovered his brother’s decapitated body in a forest near their home. “He was packed inside an empty sack of rice ... his head was fully detached from his body,” Ahmed told Fortify Rights.

In another incident from April 2024, five Rohingya men were reportedly abducted from Abuja Hamlet in Maungdaw’s Tha Yet Oak village tract. Days later, their bodies—four of them beheaded—were found in a fish pond. A mobile video reviewed by Fortify Rights showed the bodies bearing signs of torture.

Similar cases were documented in Buthidaung, where witnesses described how AA forces announced the presence of dead bodies in Boriyong village. “I saw dead

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ICC urged to probe Arakan Army war crimes

bodies in an open field ... all had bruises,” one survivor said.

Detention, torture, and abuse

Survivors detailed harrowing accounts of detention and torture. “Abdullah,” 21, said he was beaten with sticks and wire, punched in the face, and left bleeding and unconscious. “They put a cloth in my mouth so that I couldn’t shout. My mouth and nose were bleeding heavily,” he said, displaying his scars.

Another survivor, “Shofiq,” said he was abducted from a mosque in January 2024 and tortured with bamboo sticks while in AA custody. “They accused me of sending information to the junta military,” he said, adding that at least five detainees died in custody during his 11-month detention.

Others described inhumane conditions in AA-run detention centres, including overcrowding, lack of toilets, and shackling of detainees’ legs for months. One detainee said: “Only when someone dies do they remove the leg cuffs.”

Denial and response

In response to Fortify Rights’ letter seeking a meeting, the

Arakan Army rejected the allegations as “false and defamatory” and described them as “a malicious attack aimed at damaging our reputation.”

Despite repeated denials by the AA, Fortify Rights claims it has consistently documented war crimes by the group, including a massacre near the Naf River in August 2024 and an arson attack on Rohingya homes in May that year.

Notably, in January 2025, the AA admitted that its fighters had tortured and summarily executed two prisoners of war.

Call for ICC action

Fortify Rights argued that these acts violate both the Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute of the ICC, which prohibit violence, torture, and mutilation of civilians. The group urged the ICC Chief Prosecutor to include the AA’s actions in the court’s ongoing investigation into crimes committed against the Rohingya.

“The Arakan Army must end its campaign of torture and killings of Rohingya in detention facilities and villages,” said Ejaz Min Khant. “If it wants to be seen as a legitimate revolutionary armed force, it must respect international law and protect civilians.”

In 2018, the ICC granted jurisdiction to investigate the forced deportation of Rohingya to Bangladesh. That mandate, Fortify Rights said, also allows the court to probe ongoing crimes committed by any group, including the AA.

Source: daily-sun.com

**TRUMP SAYS
UKRAINIAN REFUGEEES CAN STAY
IN US UNTIL WAR
ENDS**



Donald Trump stops to speak to reporters near the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, 29 July 2025. Photo: EPA/- BONNIE CASH / POOL

US President Donald Trump has said that refugees from Ukraine who have sought refuge in the country since 2022 will be permitted to stay until the end of the war, the Kyiv Post reported on Wednesday.

In April, the US administration inadvertently sent letters to some Ukrainian refugees, demanding that they leave the country, The Washington Post reported, though the authorities were quick to amend the error, reassuring immigrants that the notice was a mistake the same day.

Source: novayagazeta.eu

ARAKAN ARMY OPPRESSING ROHINGYAS LIKE JUNTA DID: HRW

The Arakan Army has imposed severe restrictions and committed grave rights abuses against the ethnic Rohingya population in Myanmar's Rakhine State, said Human Rights Watch in a new report yesterday.

The territorial gains in the state have been accompanied by movement restrictions, pillage, arbitrary detention, mistreatment and unlawful forced labour and recruitment, among other abuses against the Rohingya.

Myanmar's military has long subjected the Rohingya to atrocity crimes, including the ongoing crime against humanity of apartheid.

And now the Arakan Army, which controls some 90 percent of Rakhine State, is carrying out policies of oppression against the Rohingya similar to those long imposed by the Myanmar military, said the New York-based rights watchdog.

"The Arakan Army should end its discriminatory and abusive practices and comply with international law," said Elaine Pearson, Asia director at Human Rights Watch.



The Arakan Army pledged inclusive, equitable governance in areas it captured from Myanmar's abusive military junta after fighting resumed in November 2023.

But Rohingya describe life under the Arakan Army as harsh and restrictive, with discriminatory regulations and practices, according to the report.

From April to July, HRW interviewed 12 Rohingya refugees who had fled to Bangladesh from Buthidaung township in northern Rakhine State for the report. Life under the Arakan Army's control was incredibly restrictive, a 62-year-old Rohingya refugee who arrived in Bangladesh in June told HRW.

"We were not allowed to work, fish, farm or even move without permission. We faced extreme food shortages, with most people begging from one another."

Rohingya in Rakhine State have been caught between the Myanmar military and the Arakan Army, with both forces committing grave abuses, including extrajudicial killings, widespread arson and unlawful recruitment.

Since late 2023, more than 400,000 people have been internally displaced in Rakhine and Chin States, while as many as 200,000 have fled to Bangladesh, according to the report.

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Source: thedailystar.net