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YOUNG ROHINGYA GROWING FRUSTRATED, ANGRY, WARNS BANGLADESH’S INTERIM LEADER



Rohingya refugees hold placards while attending a Ramadan Solidarity Iftar to have an Iftar meal with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser of Bangladesh Interim Government, at the Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, March 14, 2025. – Reuters

Bangladesh’s interim leader Muhammad Yunus warned Thursday that thousands of young Rohingya growing up in refugee camps are becoming increasingly frustrated and angry amid a prolonged deadlock about their repatriation.

“It is a sad situation. Thousands of young people are growing up in camps with

no hope. They are becoming frustrated and angry,” the Nobel laureate said during a meeting with Miyazaki Katsura, executive senior vice president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), in Dhaka.

Bangladesh has hosted more than 1.3 million Rohingya Muslims since they fled a military crackdown in

THOUSANDS STUCK IN CAMPS FACE HOPELESSNESS AS REPATRIATION EFFORTS REMAIN DEADLOCKED

Myanmar’s Rakhine State in August 2017. Despite multiple international efforts, no formal repatriation has taken place.

A statement from Yunus’ office said he raised concerns about the refugee situation and urged Japan to strengthen cooperation with Bangladesh in areas such as investment, fisheries, the Rohingya humanitarian response and youth development, including education and sports.

The UN refugee agency in Bangladesh said Thursday that relentless monsoon rains continue to batter Rohingya camps in Cox’s Bazar, where most refugees are housed.

It said more than 2,930 people have been affected and over 435 shelters have been partially damaged in the last two weeks.

Source: bdnews24.com

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MYANMAR RULING JUNTA RELEASES 93 CHILD SOLDIERS AFTER UN CRITICISM



Myanmar soldiers arrive to Buthidaung jetty after Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army's (ARSA) attacks, at Buthidaung, Myanmar. (File photo: Reuters)

Myanmar’s ruling junta said on Friday it has already discharged 93 minors from military service, responding to a United Nations report last month accusing it and its allies of recruiting over 400 children, many in combat roles.

In a rare admission published in its mouthpiece newspaper, the junta said it conducted a verification process last year that resulted in the discharge of 93 verified minors, who were also provided with financial assistance.

“To date, only 18 suspected minor cases remain pending verification,” a government-run committee said in a statement published in the Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper.

Myanmar’s military and the armed groups affiliated to it last year recruited 467 boys and 15 girls, including over 370 children used in combat roles, the UN Secretary-General’s report on Children and Armed Conflict said.

Anti-junta groups had also recruited children, the report said, although their number was far lower than that of the military.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since a 2021 coup that unseated an elected government led by Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, causing widespread protests that morphed into a nationwide armed uprising against the powerful military.

Established ethnic armies and new armed groups formed in the wake of the coup have gained control over much of Myanmar’s borderlands, hemming the junta largely into the country’s central plains. The struggling junta in 2024 activated a mandatory military service law, conscripting young people to replenish its depleted ranks after months of relentless fighting forced it to cede swathes of territory.

Nearly 3.5 million people were internally displaced in the war-torn country, with children accounting for over 33 percent of that population in 2024, according to UNICEF.

The largest proportion of child recruitment appears to have taken place in western Rakhine state, home to the minority Muslim Rohingya community, where the Myanmar military – along with two allies fighting there – enlisted 300 minors, according to the UN report.

Reuters reported last year that children as young as 13 were fighting on the frontlines in Rakhine state, citing a UN official and two Rohingya fighters.

■ Source: english.alarabiya.net