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ROHINGYA REPATRIATION A COLLECTIVE DUTY OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY: BANGLADESH



Ambassador Tareq Md Ariful Islam, Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva addressed the 59th session of the UN Human Rights Council. Photo: MoFA

Bangladesh has called on the international community to assume its collective responsibility in ensuring the safe, dignified and voluntary repatriation of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas to their homeland in Myanmar.

“It is the collective duty of the international community to ensure that the rights and dignity of the Rohingya are upheld and the conditions conducive to their return are expeditiously created in

Rakhine,” said Ambassador Tareq Md Ariful Islam, Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva.

According to a foreign ministry press release issued today, the ambassador made the remark while addressing the 59th session of the UN Human Rights Council during the adoption of a resolution titled “The Situation of Human Rights of the Rohingya Muslims and Other Minorities

in Myanmar”, led by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Friday. Ambassador Islam reaffirmed Bangladesh's unwavering commitment to work constructively with all partners to find a comprehensive and lasting solution to the protracted Rohingya crisis through safe, voluntary, dignified, and sustainable repatriation.

In his statement, the envoy expressed deep concern over the ongoing violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State, stating that Myanmar's military forces and armed groups, including the Arakan Army, continue to perpetrate violence, block humanitarian access, and exacerbate the suffering of the Rohingya people.

He informed the Council that since November 2023, nearly 118,000 Rohingyas have fled from Rakhine into Bangladesh to escape killings, persecution and unrest.

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HOW ONE MAN IS SHAPING ROHINGYA REPATRIATION RHETORIC

Bangladesh also emphasized the need for concrete and time-bound outcomes from the upcoming High-Level Conference on the Rohingya issue, scheduled to be held in September this year in New York.

The resolution adopted by the Council voiced serious concern over the declining humanitarian assistance for the Rohingyas and called for equitable burden- and responsibility-sharing by the international community to support the refugees sheltered in Bangladesh.

It further urged the provision of unhindered and adequate humanitarian assistance within Rakhine by the United Nations and all relevant humanitarian actors.

The resolution reiterated the importance of ensuring accountability to end the prevailing culture of impunity in Rakhine.

It also stressed the need for inclusive and participatory governance in the state, with full and meaningful representation of Rohingya Muslims at all levels of decision-making.

The 59th Session of the UN Human Rights Council began on June 16 and will continue until July 9, 2025.



DilMohammed has lately crossed a new threshold: Recent international think tank briefings now echo the same details first exclusively reported here in this journal in February and March.

Inside the camps he is scaling up, staging near continuous rallies, opening a purpose built headquarters, and floating talk of a camp “election” that would formalize his role. These shifts make it worth tracking how a once shadowy Myanmar army informant is being remade as a central figure in refugee politics.

At a large gathering in Teknaf in the third week of June, Dil Mohammed, self-proclaimed “chief” of the Rohingya Committee for Peace and Repatriation (RCPR), addressed refugees with what first appeared to be a sermon on social order.

He banned loud wedding music, warned against online gambling, threatened action against kidnappers and drug sellers, and invoked the

memory of Arakan as the true homeland. The scene felt familiar: Another camp meeting with maulvis on the platform and hundreds of refugees listening attentively. But the messaging, tightly packed into a 15-minute address, revealed something deeper.

Over roughly 200 incendiary seconds, Dil Mohammed outlawed vice and idleness, stirred loyalty with filial invocations (“Where are our parents’ graves? -- Arakan”), and ended with a pointed challenge: “Will you go back or not?” In minutes, he cast himself not only as a community leader but as moral enforcer and gatekeeper of return. This was no one-off performance.

Over the past year, security agencies have cleared the way for regular mass rallies. Meeting summaries shared with me repeat the military recruitment quota -- one able bodied male per family -- and note the announcement of meetings by camp majhis through their camp-specific WhatsApp groups.

In a startling twist unveiled at recent rallies, Dil Mohammed has begun pitching what he calls a camp-wide “election”

Source: bssnews.net

to install a single Rohingya figurehead. Under the proposal, vetted organizers would select just 3,000-7,000 camp residents to vote on a shortlist of pre-approved names. In Teknaf he spelled out the endgame: The winner would sit above every faction and become the sole contact point for Bangladeshi officials, foreign envoys, and delegations.

In April he also inaugurated a large office in BlockD, Camp1E -- a building large enough for visiting delegations, opened with quiet congratulations from DGFI and NSI officers and no mobile phones allowed. The infrastructure signals that DilMohammed intends to be more than a preacher; he is positioning himself as an institutional figurehead. What makes Dil Mohammed's authority remarkable is how recent his arrival is. Until 2024, he was still based across the border in northern Maungdaw; a year ago he slipped into Bangladesh and, with the blessing of camp based intelligence officers, vaulted over long established commanders to present himself as the Rohingya voice-in waiting.

He is not a community elder shaped by exile, nor a cleric with decades of moral capital; he is a latecomer whose

notoriety in Rakhine -- smuggling, extortion, informing for the junta -- initially made many refugees distrust him. Indeed, it is precisely this reputation that intrigues refugees and the reason why they go to listen to "Dil Mohammed, Sir."

State agencies have paved the way for his rise. Intelligence handlers shepherded his lieutenants into photo ops with the OIC's special envoy and UN Secretary General António Guterres, burnishing a legitimacy he lacked on his own. With that scaffolding in place, he has begun to soften last year's jihad rhetoric into the present sermon of discipline and orderly repatriation. In Camp 12, during a Friday speech on June 20, he chided refugees who had "become too comfortable," too invested in camp businesses and schooling (he never had any schooling himself) to consider a return. "Our homeland is yearning for us," he said. "And yet here we are, living under tarpaulin sheets -- shelters not even fit for the cattle we once raised back in Arakan."

The shift in rhetoric is not accidental. It is image management. And it serves multiple audiences. To conservative refugees, he aligns himself with Islamic



clerics. The same clerics occupy the platform in most of his events. To Bangladeshi authorities, he offers order and obedience. To wary donors and humanitarian agencies, he recasts himself as a guardian of the community. He is pitching himself as a broker: Of discipline, repatriation, and control.




Let's be clear: Dil Mohammed's rise is not organic, rather it's engineered. His message dovetails neatly with the official Bangladeshi line that repatriation is "the only proper solution." In echoing this, he buys protection and extends the state's reach inside the camps, silencing dissent, enforcing recruitment, and reshaping/disciplining daily life. The Teknaf sermon makes that role explicit. By promising to hand over criminals to the authorities, he offers himself as an informal police chief. By warning families not to send rations to "the killers of our brothers," he casts economic smuggling as treason. The threat is implicit: Obey or be denounced. But his newfound moral persona collapses under scrutiny. For years, Dil Mohammed operated as a cartel fixer, smuggling yaba tablets and gold. He has long collaborated with Myanmar's border police and military.



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