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ROHINGYA'S SAFE RETURN TO MYANMAR IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL CRIMES AGAINST THEM END AND PERPETRATORS HELD ACCOUNTABLE



“The more than one million Rohingya forcibly displaced to Bangladesh will not be able to safely and sustainably return to Myanmar until the violence against them ends and perpetrators can be brought to justice,” said Nicholas Koumjian, Head of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (Mechanism) ahead of his participation in the Stakeholders’ Dialogue on the Rohingya Situation to be held in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, on 24 and 25 August.

The Stakeholders’ Dialogue, organised by the Government of Bangladesh, will explore strategies to ensure the voluntary and safe repatriation of the Rohingya, and will feed into the High-level Conference on the Situation of Rohingya Muslims and Other Minorities in Myanmar to be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York at the end of September.

The event coincides with the eight-year commemoration of the brutal clearance

operations against the Rohingya by the Myanmar security forces in Rakhine State who committed mass killings, sexual violence and large-scale destruction of villages. Approximately three quarters of a million Rohingya fled across the border to Bangladesh, where they have since remained.

“No one has yet been held accountable for these horrific crimes. When crimes go unpunished, this fuels more violence,” said Koumjian.

“I consistently hear from Rohingya refugees that they want to return to their homes in Myanmar, but only when it is safe to do so. Ending the violence and atrocities against civilians from all communities in Rakhine is critical for the eventual safe, dignified, voluntary and sustainable return of those that have been displaced.”

Source: reliefweb.int

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ROHINGYA CRISIS AT BREAKING POINT: **WHY THE WORLD MUST ACT**

The Rohingya crisis is spiralling into a dangerous new phase, with conditions in the refugee camps deteriorating daily. Global leaders continue to promise action, including high-profile commitments from figures like the UN Secretary-General, but on the ground, aid is dwindling, despair is deepening, and there is still no credible plan for repatriation.

In the past 18 months, an estimated 150,000 new Rohingya have fled targeted violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State and crossed into Bangladesh.

This influx has stretched Cox's Bazar's already overcrowded camps to the breaking point. More than 1.2 million Rohingya now live within just 24 km², making it one of the most densely populated settlements in the world. Yet international funding and diplomatic engagement are retreating at precisely the moment when they are most needed.

The UN Secretary-General António Guterres pledged to do everything possible to convince the international community to support Rohingya repatriation during his March 2025 visit to Bangladesh. His words raised



hopes that the crisis might again command global attention. At the 4 April 2025 BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok, Myanmar's deputy prime minister announced that 180,000 Rohingya had been identified for the first phase of repatriation, with another 70,000 under verification, the first concrete repatriation list in years.

But months later, progress has stalled. There is no timeline, no verified safe zones in Rakhine and no guarantees of rights or protection for returnees.

The truth is clear: no repatriation deal will succeed without addressing the core problem: the absence of peace, security and rights guarantees in Rakhine State. For decades, Myanmar's

military has subjected the Rohingya to systemic persecution, which UN investigators have described as crimes against humanity, including the ongoing crime of apartheid.

Today, much of Rakhine is under the control of the Arakan Army, which, according to human rights groups, is imposing oppressive policies alarmingly similar to those of the military. With clashes between the Arakan Army and Myanmar's military ongoing, the region is unstable and unsafe. Returning Rohingya without enforceable guarantees of safety, citizenship and dignity would be reckless and counterproductive.

Source: daily-sun.com

GOVT INTENSIFYING EFFORTS TO BRING BACK ROHINGYA ISSUE TO GLOBAL FORUMS: CHIEF ADVISER'S PRESS SECRETARY

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam on Thursday said the interim government is actively engaging with international stakeholders to address the Rohingya crisis, bringing the issue back to global forums as a major topic of discussion and working towards a roadmap for the safe and dignified return of Rohingyas to Myanmar.

As part of these efforts, a three-day international conference will be held in Cox's Bazar starting on 24 August, he said.

Briefing reporters at the Foreign Service Academy in the capital, Alam said Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus will attend the conference on 25 August, with the dialogue continuing until 26 August.

Chief Adviser's Deputy Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad Majumder and Senior Assistant Press Secretary Foyez Ahmad were present.

The Press Secretary added that two more international conferences are scheduled



later this year in New York and Doha, with the largest taking place in the last week of September in New York.

He said Rohingya representatives, delegates from 40 countries, diplomats based in Dhaka, and representatives from UN agencies will participate in the Cox's Bazar conference.

Alam noted that a special discussion with Rohingya representatives will take place on 24 August.

The three-day conference will highlight issues of repatriation, funding, and a comprehensive roadmap for the safe return of Rohingyas.

Around 170 countries are expected to join a high-level conference on the situation of Rohingya Muslims and other

minorities in Myanmar, to be organized on September 30 in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

Foreign Adviser Md Touhid Hossain recently said the government is working on three fronts: ensuring uninterrupted foreign funding, keeping the issue alive amid other global crises, and securing the safe and dignified return of Rohingyas.

"The issue should not be forgotten. We continuously bring it into focus. We are working on three fronts," he told reporters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"We are facing mounting humanitarian, developmental, and security-related challenges," Adviser Hossain said recently while speaking at the OIC Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee on Accountability for Human Rights Violations against the Rohingyas. Bangladesh has demonstrated 'extraordinary compassion and responsibility' by sheltering over 1.3 million forcibly displaced Rohingyas, despite the escalating crises.

Source: tbsnews.net