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MYANMAR REBEL ARMY PROVES IT IS NO PARTNER FOR PEACE

For years, many in the international community, myself included, cautiously entertained the idea that the Arakan Army, an ethnic Rakhine armed group in Myanmar, might one day become part of the solution to the Rohingya crisis.

As the Myanmar military regime continued its campaign of brutality against civilians, especially ethnic minorities, some looked to the AA and other rebel factions as alternative governance

structures that might offer greater inclusion, stability, and even justice. That illusion has now been shattered.

A recent report by the legal news service Jurist confirms what many Rohingya activists and civil society groups have been warning for months: the AA is committing serious human rights abuses against Rohingya civilians in Rakhine State. These include arbitrary killings, forced displacement, recruitment of child soldiers, and a deliberate campaign of terror in areas under its control.

This is not a group preparing to govern responsibly; it is one repeating the junta’s crimes. The Arakan Army has spent years cultivating an image of disciplined, strategic leadership. It gained credibility by avoiding major civilian atrocities and publicly committing to establishing local administrative control in liberated areas. But behind this facade is a brutal reality.

The AA has neither the intent nor the capacity to uphold the rights of minorities, especially the Rohingya. This is not an isolated failure. It is a fundamental betrayal of the values the AA claims to uphold. In 2023, as the junta’s grip on large parts of the country weakened, the AA expanded its control over much of Rakhine State.


International observers, including some in Bangladesh, saw this as a potential opening to begin safe and voluntary repatriation of the nearly 1 million Rohingya refugees living in squalid camps across the border in Cox’s Bazar.

Read full article on our website.

■ Source: arabnews.com


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“IF WE DIE, WE DIE”: MYANMAR’S RAKHINE PUSHED TO THE BRINK

“If food supplies continue to be blocked, Rakhine and Muslim Rohingya communities could face famine in the coming months.”

Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar’s Rakhine State have for decades been subjected to a litany of abuses, including movement restrictions, arbitrary detention, forced labour, extrajudicial killings, and the denial of citizenship, but now they’re being starved of food too.

It’s not just the ruling junta. In a recent news release, Human Rights Watch also accused the Arakan Army (AA), the most successful ethno-nationalist armed group taking on the junta, of similarly abusing and oppressing the Rohingya. Such allegations date back years.

Human Rights Watch said life for the Rohingya under the AA and its political wing, the United League of Arakan, is “harsh and restrictive, with discriminatory regulations and practices”. The findings, based on interviews with 12 Rohingya refugees who had fled to Bangladesh from northern Rakhine, fly in the



face of the AA’s stated commitment to “protect the rights of all communities equally in the region”, including the Rohingya. For those who have survived the junta’s past atrocities and managed to avoid the AA’s wrath, life remains incredibly difficult. Fatima Khatun, a Rohingya Muslim widow in her forties, lives in Kyauktaw Township in northeast

Rakhine, one of three townships in Rakhine still under military control. “I have no regular job. If I find some work, I do it. If I can’t, I beg relatives for help. If they can’t help, I just go hungry,” she said, sitting on the damp floor of a makeshift bamboo-and-tarpaulin hut as rain leaked through the roof.

For details visit our website.

Source: thenewhumanitarian.org



MYANMAR MILITARY JUNTA USING EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGY FOR DRONE ATTACKS, REPORT SAYS

Junta obtained ‘anti-jamming’ product made in Europe through a Chinese company, research finds, triggering calls for tighter sanctions

Source: theguardian.com

MYANMAR SIGNS DEAL WITH WASHINGTON LOBBYISTS TO REBUILD US RELATIONS

A Washington lobbying firm has signed an agreement worth \$3 million a year with Myanmar's Ministry of Information to help the long-time military-ruled country rebuild relations with the United States.

Source: reuters.com




Smoke rises from burning buildings in Waraisuplia village in Myanmar’s Kayah state in 2022 as the military targeted civilians in air and ground attacks. Photograph: Free Burma Rangers/AP




The international community must reverse cuts to humanitarian aid for the Rohingya and work with Dhaka authorities to improve conditions in refugee camps, a new study says.



Source: miragenews.com



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ROHINGYA PRESS

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 +8801805117405
 /RohingyaPress2
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 info@rohingyapress.com
rohingyapress2@gmail.com
 www.rohingyapress.com