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WHY ROHINGYA REPATRIATION KEEPS FAILING AND HOW TO FIX IT



For almost eight years, the world has watched the Rohingya crisis fester, with no meaningful progress toward a solution. Nearly a million Rohingya refugees remain stranded in camps in Bangladesh, victims of a genocide that forced them from their homes in Myanmar’s Rakhine State in 2017. The humanitarian situation in Cox’s Bazar grows ever more desperate as aid dwindles, while conditions in Myanmar remain hostile and dangerous.

The international community has repeatedly promised to facilitate the repatriation of the Rohingya to their homeland. Yet every attempt has ended in failure. But why? And perhaps more importantly, what must change to avoid consigning the Rohingya to permanent exile?

The first repatriation agreement, struck in 2018 between Bangladesh and Myanmar’s military government, was touted as a

breakthrough. But when buses were lined up to transport Rohingya families back across the border, not a single refugee stepped forward. Similar initiatives in 2019 and more recent pilot schemes have met the same fate. Refugees simply do not believe they will be safe if they return – and they are right.

The root of the failure lies in the flawed design of these repatriation efforts. Negotiations have been conducted almost exclusively between Dhaka and Naypyitaw, the seat of Myanmar’s junta. This is a fatal error. The junta may hold formal sovereignty but it has neither legitimacy nor effective control over much of Rakhine State, where the Rohingya once lived. The Arakan Army, an ethnic Rakhine force, now controls more than half of the state’s townships. Any plan that excludes them is detached from reality.

Source: arabnews.com

More News:

Between September 11 and 17, an average daily return of 4,300 Afghan refugees from Iran was registered, UNHCR reported in a press release on Friday.



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COAST GUARD BRINGS BACK 122 BANGLADESHI FISHERMEN FROM MYANMAR WATERS



The Bangladesh Coast Guard brought back 122 fishermen and their 19 trawlers today (29 August) after they had illegally crossed into Myanmar's territorial waters in the Naf River near Teknaf.

The identities of the rescued fishermen have not yet been released.

The rescue operation was conducted from 8am to 11:30am, spanning various areas of the Naf River from Jaliyapara to the Shahporir Dwip estuary, according to Lieutenant Commander Siam-ul-Haque, media officer at the Coast Guard headquarters.

Referring to fighting between the Arakan Army and regime

forces in Myanmar's Rakhine State, he said that with the ongoing conflict there, the entire border area adjacent to Bangladesh is now under the control of the Arakan Army rebel group.

Bangladeshi fishermen who cross the zero line of the Naf River are being detained by the Arakan Army all the time, the official added.

He noted that the Coast Guard and other border security agencies are facing significant challenges in rescuing these fishermen who violate international law. This also complicates efforts to prevent Rohingya infiltration, drug and arms smuggling, and other cross-border crimes, Siam said.

■ Source: tbsnews.net

SOME 4,300 AFGHAN REFUGEES DEPORTED FROM IRAN PER DAY: UNHCR

Daily returns rose sharply after June 13, with additional spikes recorded after June 25. Since then, the trend has declined, the report added. The average daily return between September 11 and 17 was 4,300, which is substantially lower than the previous week's 7,400. Nevertheless, the current level remains well above the first quarter of 2025, when the daily average was approximately 3,500.

As of September 17, over 1.79 million Afghans returned from Iran since March 20, 2025, and over 2 million since the beginning of the year, bringing the total returns from both Iran and Pakistan in 2025 to over 2.7 million.

RETURNS BY DOCUMENTATION STATUS

From September 11 to 17, headcounted slip holders made up 33% of total returnees, with 35% of total deportees being headcounted slip holders. Looking at the broader period since March 20, approximately 44% of total returnees and 44% of total deportees are headcount slip holders.

■ Source: tehrantimes.com