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8TH YEAR OF ROHINGYA GENOCIDE: BANGLADESH’S EXPERIENCE AS HOST



hosting more than 1.3 million Rohingya refugees, making it one of the largest refugee populations in the world.

While Bangladesh has received praise for its humanitarian efforts, the large influx of refugees has also created significant security challenges, including socio-economic pressures, geopolitical tensions and an increased risk of radicalisation in the southern part of Bangladesh.

One of the most pressing security challenges posed by the influx is the strain on local communities and resources. Cox’s Bazar, a region already grappling with poverty and underdevelopment, has experienced a population increase of over a million. The environmental impact of the Rohingya camps has been substantial, with extensive deforestation and soil erosion occurring due to the demand for shelter materials and firewood.

Source: newagebd.net

THE world is observing the 8th Rohingya Genocide Remembrance this year to honour the genocide against the Rohingyas that occurred in Myanmar’s Rakhine State. The Rohingya crisis, often considered one of the most pressing humanitarian challenges of the 21st century, has attracted global attention to the plight of the Rohingya people in Bangladesh.

Beginning in the late 20th century, the Rohingyas have faced systemic persecution, violence and denial of citizenship by the Myanmar government, which unfairly

labels them as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh despite their long-standing presence in the region. The latest and most severe outbreak of violence began in August 2017, following a violent military crackdown by Myanmar in response to attacks by a Rohingya insurgent group.

This campaign, characterised by widespread killings, sexual violence and arson, led to over 700,000 Rohingya fleeing to Bangladesh, joining thousands who had already sought refuge in previous years. Currently, Bangladesh is

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■ The ongoing presence of over a million refugees poses significant risks to Bangladesh’s stability, security and development. -Dr Mohammad Mohiuddin is an associate professor of sociology at the University of Chittagong.



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ROHINGYA REFUGEES STILL UNSAFE AS MYANMAR CONFLICT INTENSIFIES

The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect has issued a stark appeal to members of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), urging them to prioritise atrocity prevention and accountability for Myanmar's mounting human rights crisis during the Council's upcoming 60th session.

In a letter to HRC members, the Centre described Myanmar's worsening humanitarian catastrophe since the February 2021 military coup, noting that civilians across 13 of the country's 15 states and regions are trapped between junta offensives and clashes with armed groups.

The letter details widespread abuses by Myanmar's military, including relentless airstrikes, scorched-earth campaigns, obstruction of humanitarian aid, and brutal attacks on civilians. Atrocities reported by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights include the burning alive of civilians, dismemberment, rape, and beheadings.

According to the figures cited, at least 7,035 people have been killed, 22,263 remain imprisoned, and nearly 20 million people are in need of humanitarian aid—one million



more than in 2024. While the junta remains the primary perpetrator, the Centre also acknowledged abuses by anti-junta armed groups, including torture, sexual violence, extrajudicial killings, and forced recruitment, highlighting the dangerous environment for civilians nationwide.

The Global Centre emphasised the plight of the Rohingya minority, recalling the August 2017 "clearance operations" that forced over 900,000 Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh—a campaign a UN Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) determined amounted to genocide.

Renewed conflict in late 2023 has reignited suffering in Rakhine State, with both the

military and the Arakan Army (AA) accused of indiscriminate airstrikes, drone attacks, forced displacement, and the destruction of entire towns. More than 400,000 people are internally displaced in Rakhine and Chin States, while another 200,000 have fled to Bangladesh since last year.

The letter urged HRC member states to use the upcoming Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on Myanmar to highlight the urgent risks facing Rohingya communities and other minorities. It stressed that any discussions on Rohingya repatriation must ensure their safety, given that both the junta and the AA continue to pose grave threats.

Source: ilkha.com

ROHINGYA CRISIS STEPS INTO 9TH YEAR – OPED



In a speech on October 13, 2022 at the European Diplomatic Academy in Bruges, Josep Borell, the European Union’s High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, said: “Europe is a garden. We have built a garden ... the rest of the world ... is not exactly a garden. Most of the rest of the world is a jungle.”

Maybe this explains why the rest of the world’s humanitarian issues haven’t gotten the attention they deserve. According to UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric, the 2022 “Stand Up for Ukraine” worldwide pledging drive garnered \$8.9 billion, “this is among the fastest and most generous responses a humanitarian flash appeal has ever

received.” But similar generosity is absent in case of Myanmar, Gaza, Yemen, the Sahel, Ethiopia and Afghanistan.

A month after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine grew, in February 2022, the ICC Prosecutor declared that the court will look into possible crimes in Ukraine. A severe warning against committing crimes in Ukraine was also issued by the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. The International Criminal Court has not made any comparable, strong public pronouncements about Myanmar. Although arrest warrants, and prosecutions might have served as a preventative measure, particularly during a conflict.

■ Source: eurasiareview.com

MYANMAR: GLOBAL UNIONS CALL FOR REMOVAL OF JUNTA-ALIGNED HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

As Myanmar’s military continues its systematic eradication of press freedom and persecution of the country’s remaining independent media, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) has joined seven global union federations in calling for the immediate removal of the junta-aligned Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) from the Southeast Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum (SEANF). The IFJ condemns the ongoing targeting of media workers and trade unionists by Myanmar’s de facto authorities and urges the SEANF to swiftly sever ties with the MNHRC.



Myanmar's junta spokesperson Zaw Min Tun speaks to the media during a ceremony to mark the country's Armed Forces Day in Naypyidaw on March 27, 2025. Credit: AFP

■ Source: ifj.org