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DHAKA URGES UNHCR TO EXPLORE PRACTICAL WAYS FOR ROHINGYA REPATRIATION



Dhaka called on the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to explore pathways for the sustainable repatriation of the Rohingyas today (4 September).

Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain requested newly appointed UNHCR Representative in Bangladesh Ivo Freijssen to use his portfolio not only to garner greater support for the Joint Response Plan (JRP) 2025–26, but more importantly to 'explore

practical pathways' for the early, safe, dignified and sustainable return of the Rohingyas to Myanmar.

The Rohingya issue was discussed when Freijssen met Adviser Hossain after presenting his credentials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Both sides exchanged views on UNHCR's work in providing humanitarian assistance to the temporarily sheltered Rohingyas in Bangladesh and the on-going implementation of the Joint Response Plan

(JRP) 2025–26. During the meeting, Freijssen and Hossain reiterated their shared commitment to providing protection and finding a sustainable solution for the more than 1.3 million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar currently living in Bangladesh.

"It is both an honour and a privilege to represent UNHCR in Bangladesh—a country that has so generously hosted people forced to flee for many years. I look forward to working closely with national and international partners to support Bangladesh in its ongoing response to the Rohingya refugee crisis," said Freijssen.

The Foreign Adviser wished Freijssen a successful tenure in Bangladesh.

Freijssen also called on Foreign Secretary Asad Alam Siam.

Source: tbsnews.net

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US PANEL ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM URGES INDIA TO HALT DEPORTATIONS OF ROHINGYA, BENGALI-SPEAKING MUSLIMS

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) on Thursday raised alarm over India's ongoing expulsion of Rohingya refugees and Bengali-speaking Muslims, calling the deportations a violation of international law and religious freedom.

The commission said Indian authorities in May deported at least 40 Rohingya refugees to Myanmar, forcing them to make a dangerous boat journey. Since then, officials have expelled hundreds of Bengali-speaking Muslims to Bangladesh without due process, according to rights groups.

Thomas Andrews, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, has begun an inquiry into the deportation of 40 Rohingya refugees, calling it "unconscionable, unacceptable acts".

According to Human Rights Watch, at least 192 Rohingya refugees were expelled from India despite being registered with the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR). The group had earlier stated that although the Indian government has provided no official data on the number of people expelled. Still, Border Guard Bangladesh has reported that India expelled

more than 1,500 Muslim men, women, and children to Bangladesh between May 7 and June 15, including about 100 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar.

"The Indian government's expulsion of Rohingya refugees is a blatant disregard for international law and the principle of non-refoulement," USCIRF Chair Vicky Hartzler said in a statement Friday. "The Indian authorities must immediately end this unlawful expulsion and arbitrary detention of refugees, who are at risk of severe persecution if forced to return to Burma."

India has hosted thousands of Rohingya refugees since 2017, but does not recognise them as refugees under its Foreigners Act. Authorities have also described many Bengali-speaking Muslims in Assam as "illegal immigrants" from Bangladesh, part of a wider implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Source: maktoobmedia.com



There are concerns about whether Bangladesh is infrastructurally and financially ready to take more refugees without ensuring conditions for Rohingya repatriation. Photo: Reuters

ROHINGYA AND GAZA CRISIS EXPOSED: HOW THE WORLD IGNORES ONGOING GENOCIDES!

Eight years ago, Myanmar's military began a campaign of horrific violence against the Rohingya people, marking the start of a brutal genocide. This community, native to Myanmar's Rakhine state, saw their villages burned to the ground and their people subjected to unimaginable atrocities including mass killings and sexual violence.

The plight of the Rohingya caught the world's attention as it became one of the first genocides of such scale to be broadcasted globally. Today, as similar acts of violence unfold in other parts of the world, the haunting memories of the Rohingya genocide remain vivid, prompting reflections on the international community's response to such crimes against humanity.

The Roots of Persecution

Long before the catastrophic events of 2017, the Rohingya faced systemic oppression. Following a military coup in 1962, Myanmar's leadership implemented a citizenship system based on racial purity, culminating in the 1982

Citizenship Act. This law stripped the Rohingya of their citizenship, rendering them stateless on their ancestral land and restricting their access to education, employment, and freedom of movement. The military enforced these policies with violent campaigns, forcing large numbers of Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh as early as 1978.

From Bad to Worse: The 2011 Shift and Its Aftermath
In 2011, Myanmar transitioned to a military-dominated civilian government, initiating what was perceived as a reformist era. However, the situation for the Rohingya continued to deteriorate. Research conducted from 2011 to 2014 highlighted ongoing restrictions and abuses, which were systematically enforced to make life untenable for the Rohingya. The military's actions included turning villages into open-air prisons, restricting access to basic resources, and committing acts of violence such as forced labor and arbitrary arrests.

■ Source: meadecountymessenger.com

BORDER OF BROKEN DREAMS: 65,000 MYANMAR REFUGEES FIND FRAGILE HOPE IN NORTHEAST INDIA



Since the military coup in Myanmar in February 2021, an estimated 65,000 refugees have fled to India's North-East, escaping violence in Myanmar's Chin State and Sagaing Region. Most have sought safety in Mizoram and Manipur, where ethnic and cultural ties with local communities have enabled temporary relief but not without rising social and political tensions. Mizoram has emerged as the primary host, sheltering over 33,000 refugees. The state has taken a humanitarian stance, offering food, medical care, and education through support from local churches, civil society groups, and the Young Mizo Association (YMA). Despite limited resources, nearly 580 refugee children have been enrolled in local schools, although language remains a barrier as many are accustomed to Burmese or Chin scripts.

■ Source: sentinelassam.com