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THE IMPACT OF FUNDING CUTS TO THE ROHINGYA REFUGEES: IMPENDING CRISIS FOR BANGLADESH – OPED



The reduction of humanitarian assistance to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh poses an imminent danger to the safety and welfare of over 1.2 million stateless individuals, as well as to regional stability, the socioeconomic structure of Bangladesh, and the feasibility of secure and sustainable repatriation.

Decreased financial support from NGOs, INGOs, and U.N. agencies, notably the World Food Programme (WFP), results in refugees confronting escalating challenges related

to hunger, deteriorating health, and diminished access to education and protection. This short examines the trajectory of the Rohingya problem from 2017 to 2025, the circumstances that precipitated and will ensue from a decline in aid, and the necessary actions for Bangladesh and the international community to avert a humanitarian catastrophe.

The head of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Mr. Filippo Grandi

had addressed these issues regarding the Rohingya while visiting the Kutupalong Rohingya camp in Cox’s Bazar this year, calling for sustained support and solution. In the past, we have observed that Myanmar authorities may be culpable not only of “ethnic cleansing” but perhaps of genocide.

Human rights organizations and Muslim groups in Europe and the United States assert that regulations in Buddhist-majority Myanmar impede the primarily Muslim Rohingya from marrying, accessing education, and, for some, traveling and practicing their faith. By late 2017, Cox’s Bazar was accommodating nearly 700,000 displaced Rohingya, exerting significant strain on the camps and surrounding towns. What began as an emergency intervention evolved into a protracted crisis.

Source: eurasiareview.com

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The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) is concerned by the Indian government’s expulsion of Rohingya refugees back to Burma.



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MYANMAR ON THE EDGE: WAR, BORDERS AND THE INDO-PACIFIC AT RISK



THE ongoing civil war in Myanmar is one of Asia's most chronic and dangerous crises, located at the very heart of Indo-Pacific geopolitics. The February 2021 military coup did not simply derail the country's democratic aspirations. It created one of the most complex security knots in today's international system. Myanmar's conflict is no longer confined to generals in Naypyidaw.

From the eastern borderlands to the central plains, and from the north to the west, the conflict has evolved into a multi-front nationwide conflict war. A symbolic turning point was the Three Brotherhood Alliance's '1027 Operation,' launched in late 2023. It changed both the battlefield and regional diplomacy by focusing on junta strongholds

in the north. China was compelled to act as a mediator after exerting influence behind the scenes for a considerable period. Although the war's pace was temporarily slowed by ceasefires in January 2024 and January 2025, there was no long-term peace. Tensions between the Arakan Army and Buddhist militias continue in Rakhine, and civilian resistance remains resolute in Sagaing.

One of the most striking aspects of Myanmar's war is the way it spills across borders. Bangladesh has already lost civilians to stray artillery shells and continues to carry the burden of one of the world's largest refugee crises. Over 1.2 million Rohingyas live in camps in Cox's Bazar and surrounding

areas. Each airstrike in Rakhine raises the possibility of a new wave of displacement. Thailand saw thousands of civilians attempting to cross the Moei River into Mae Sot during clashes around Myawaddy. Laos has been silently but deeply harmed by the expansion of the narcotics economy across the Golden Triangle.

For China, both border security and billions of dollars in Belt and Road projects are at stake. Unrest in Yunnan is not only a security problem for Beijing, but also a matter of prestige. In short, Myanmar's war is not a domestic affair.

It sits at the centre of multinational humanitarian crises, weapons and narcotics trafficking, cross-border trade disruptions and the solidity of the Indo-Pacific order itself. One of the key factors deepening this crisis is the effective breakdown of global arms control mechanisms. The United Nations has not imposed a binding arms embargo on Myanmar. Instead, a patchwork of sanctions by the European Union, the United States, Canada, and a few others exists.

Source: newagebd.net

ASEAN SEEKS FUNDS TO PREVENT ROHINGYA STARVATION IN BANGLADESH



United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres (center left) visits a Rohingya refugee camp in Ukhia, Cox's Bazar, on March 14. Guterres said the organization would do 'everything' to prevent food rations from being cut for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. (Photo by Munir UZ ZAMAN / AFP)

Parliamentarians from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have called for the immediate establishment of a humanitarian fund with the help of member countries to prevent starvation of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

“The World Food Programme warned that food rations will run out after November 2025 unless US\$17 million per month is secured,” said Charles Santiago, co-chair of the ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR).

The call for humanitarian aid came at a press conference in

Dhaka on Sept. 4 after a three-member APHR delegation conducted a four-day-long fact-finding visit to the Rohingya refugee camps and host communities in Cox's Bazar.

An estimated 1.5 million Rohingya refugees live in Bangladesh, including about 150,000 who fled Myanmar since 2023 amid fighting between the military and the rebel group Arakan Army in the Rakhine State.

In 2017, some 750,000 Rohingya people, mostly Muslims, fled a military crackdown to Bangladesh.

■ Source: ucanews.com

THE ROHINGYA CRISIS AND ASEAN'S FAILING CONSCIENCE

The first thing that struck me in Cox's Bazar was the air – thick with dust, tinged with the faint smell of smoke from cooking fires that never quite hid the hunger.

Children ran barefoot through narrow alleys of bamboo and tarpaulin, their laughter brittle, their eyes already older than their years.

I stopped more than once, unsure whether I was intruding on resilience or bearing witness to despair.

In every face, I saw a question that lingers still: “How long must we wait for the world to see us?”

Myanmar's cruelty continues to metastasise. A new conscription law now demands that Rohingya men and boys fight for the very army that razed their villages.

It is a grotesque bargain: serve or die, though the truth is that both paths lead to the grave. And yet, alongside this law, Bangladesh and Myanmar have signed a memorandum of understanding on “voluntary repatriation”.

■ Source: freemalaysiatoday.com