

# ROHINGYA PRESS

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## EXPERT: MALAYSIA MUST BALANCE LAW AND HUMANITY IN ROHINGYA REFUGEE CRISIS

Malaysia must urgently strike a balance between its domestic immigration policies and international humanitarian obligations in addressing the plight of Myanmar refugees, analysts say.

Universiti Utara Malaysia's School of International Studies (Academic and International) deputy dean Dr Shazwanis Shukri said that while deporting the Rohingya – who make up the majority of Myanmar refugees in Malaysia – was not a viable option, the existing policy vacuum remained deeply concerning.

She said that refugees continued to be treated as undocumented migrants, leaving thousands in legal limbo and vulnerable to exploitation, detention, and abuse.

"The reality is that Malaysia has not ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention, and therefore does not formally recognise refugees within its legal framework. "However, under customary international



The living environment of the Rohingya ethnic group in Kampung Kangkar Tebrau, Johor. - NSTP/NUR AISYAH MAZALAN

law, we are bound by the principle of non-refoulement – meaning we cannot return them to a country where they face persecution," she told the New Straits Times.

Shazwanis said one practical approach would be to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to register Rohingya asylum seekers and issue identification cards that provide limited protection from arrest or deportation. However, she said that this informal arrangement had clear limitations, leaving many in prolonged uncertainty without access to legal employment, public education, or government healthcare

services. To address these gaps, she proposed the introduction of a temporary protection framework tailored for the Rohingya community, recognising their unique status as stateless individuals and victims of systematic ethnic persecution.

"This could include temporary residency rights, legal access to employment in specific sectors, and minimal access to essential services such as healthcare and education – ideally in partnership with NGOs and UN agencies," she said. Without such measures, Shazwanis said, Malaysia risked a cascade of humanitarian, legal, diplomatic, and security challenges. Legally, the government's current stance also contradicts its commitments under international conventions it has ratified, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

■ Source: [nst.com.my](http://nst.com.my)

### More News:

■ Gaza disintegration, Rohingya starvation, and US authoritarianism: The Cheat Sheet

■ Source: [thenewhumanitarian.org](http://thenewhumanitarian.org)



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# UN REAFFIRMS SUPPORT TO BANGLADESH AMID ROHINGYA FUNDING SHORTFALL

United Nations Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh Gwyn Lewis called on Ruhul Alam Siddique, acting foreign secretary, at his office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Tuesday.

During the meeting, Lewis briefed the Foreign Secretary on the UN's ongoing initiatives in Bangladesh, including support for LDC graduation, job creation, migration, climate financing, the One Health Programme, electoral assistance, etc.

Lewis drew particular attention to the growing funding shortfall for the Rohingya response and outlined the UN's ongoing efforts to optimise spending and mobilise resources to mitigate the shortfall.

The foreign secretary expressed appreciation for the continued support and engagement of the UN in Bangladesh and underscored the importance of sustained cooperation in addressing the evolving challenges to move forward the shared development and humanitarian efforts.

■ Source: daily-sun.com

# BURMA'S MILITARY ACCUSED OF STARVING ROHINGYA



Dozens of internally displaced Rohingya in Burma's Rakhine state have died of starvation this year, according to a report released June 12 by the Burmese Rohingya Organisation UK (BROUK). Nearly 150,000 Rohingya have been confined to internment camps in the state since 2012, relying on humanitarian assistance to survive.

Tens of thousands are experiencing starvation as a result of a trade blockade and severe humanitarian access restrictions imposed by the ruling junta in response to escalating clashes with the Arakan Army (AA), an ethnic Rakhine militia. The AA has also been accused of atrocities against Rohingya living in areas under its control.

The BROUK report builds on a similar one issued in November 2024 by the UN Development Program, which documented "severe lack of income, hyperinflation, and significantly reduced domestic food production," bringing Rakhine state's economy to the brink of collapse and placing two million people at risk of starvation.

The same day BROUK released its report, UN Special Envoy on Myanmar (Burma) Julie Bishop warned the General Assembly that without ceasefires and improved aid access, Burma would remain "on a path to self-destruction." More than 20 million people in Burma are in need of humanitarian assistance.

■ Source: countervortex.org