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INDIA URGED TO HALT ARBITRARY ARREST, FORCIBLE RETURN OF ROHINGYA

Arrests in New Delhi and forced deportations to Myanmar began on May 6, says Fortify Rights group in statement

A rights organization urged India on Monday to halt the arbitrary arrest and forcible return of Rohingya refugees to Myanmar.

New Delhi should "immediately stop arbitrarily arresting, detaining and forcibly returning Rohingya refugees to Myanmar and uphold all legal obligations to protect them," the Fortify Rights group said in a statement on its website.

"Indian authorities beat, blindfold, handcuff and forcibly return Rohingya refugees to Myanmar," it said.

The organization said the arrests in New Delhi and forced deportations to Myanmar began on May 6.



"The Indian government is handing Rohingya refugees to the same forces in Myanmar responsible for the genocide against them," said Yap Lay Sheng, a human rights defender specialist at Fortify Rights.

"India has international legal obligations to protect and uphold the rights of all refugees on its territory and must immediately halt forced returns of Rohingya refugees to Myanmar."

Rohingya are a Muslim ethnic minority group in Myanmar's Rakhine state. But successive regimes in the Buddhist-majority country have denied them citizenship among other rights, forcing them to flee their homes.

■ Source: aa.com.tr

2 FISHERMEN SHOT 'BY ARAKAN ARMY' ON NAF RIVER

Two Bangladeshi fishermen were shot allegedly by Arakan Army, an armed rebel group in Myanmar, on the Naf river in Cox's Bazar's Teknaf today.

The incidents took place near Lada union and Jaliapara on the Naf river in Teknaf in the morning and afternoon.

Teknaf Upazila Nirbahi Officer Sheikh Ehsan Uddin said, "Three fishermen went to catch fish in the Naf river opposite Jaliapara this morning. As they crossed the Bangladesh waters into the Myanmar territory, Arakan Army opened fire at them, leaving two of them injured."

The injured are Hedayet Ullah, 18, and Md Hossain, 18, residents of Jaliapara in Shah Porir Dwp of Teknaf.

They are currently undergoing treatment at Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital, he said, adding that they are out of danger.

■ Source: thedailystar.net

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**CENTRE FORCIBLY
DEPORTS 43 ROHINGYA
REFUGEES BY ABANDONING
THEM IN INTERNATIONAL
WATERS:
PLEA IN SUPREME COURT**

The petitioners claimed that children were separated from their mothers, and families were split while carrying out this forcible deportation, according to the Live Law.

A fresh writ petition has been filed in the Supreme Court claiming that 43 Rohingya refugees were detained by the police and forcibly deported by the Indian government to Myanmar via Port Blair. The petition said the batch of refugees, including women, children and elderlies, were abandoned in the international waters, Live Law reports.

The Supreme Court bench of Justice Surya Kant, Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice N Kotiswar Singh is currently hearing cases relating to the deportation and living conditions of Rohingya refugees.

The court was informed on May 8, when the matter was listed, about the fact that a batch of refugees with United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) cards were arrested by the police on May 7 late night and deported, despite the matter being listed. However, the court, without passing any interim directions, listed the matter for July 31.

■ Source: newindianexpress.com

**INDIA DEPORTS ATLEAST 142 ROHINGYAS
TO BANGLADESH, MYANMAR AMID
MILITARY CONFLICT WITH PAKISTAN**

The Rohingyas were detained in the Matia camp in Goalpara in Assam after they had illegally crossed the border, mainly in Tripura and were trying to travel to different parts of the country.

Guwahati: Amid the military conflict with Pakistan, India resumed deportation of Rohingyas and sent at least 142 "refugees" from Assam and New Delhi to Bangladesh and Myanmar, since May 7.

Official sources said that 102 Rohingyas, who remained detained in the country's biggest foreigner detention camp at Matia in Assam, were taken to Tripura via buses and were "pushed back" into Bangladesh.

A few more "illegal migrants" from Bangladesh were also sent back along with the Rohingyas. Similarly, at least 40 Rohingyas were detained by police in New Delhi and were taken to Andaman on May 7 and were pushed towards Myanmar on the sea. "This was done as part of a decision to deport the illegal migrants living across the country," said the official. On Saturday, Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma told

reporters in Guwahati that Rohingyas and Bangladeshis detained in Matia camp were "pushed back" into Bangladesh. "The Matia camp is almost free now. Only 30 to 40 foreigners who have pending litigations are now left there," Sarma said, describing it an "operation" by the Centre.

The Rohingyas were detained in the Matia camp in Goalpara in Assam after they had illegally crossed the border, mainly in Tripura and were trying to travel to different parts of the country.

The Rohingyas had fled Rakahine state of Myanmar following a long ethnic conflict and had taken shelter in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar. Many had illegally entered India as the conflict in Myanmar continued and due to poor conditions in the refugee camps in Bangladesh.

India has refused to accept the Rohingyas as refugees as it is not a signatory of the UN Refugee Convention.

■ Source: deccanherald.com