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PLEA IN TOP COURT SEEKS RETURN, RELEASE OF 'FORCIBLY DEPORTED' ROHINGYA REFUGEES

The plea claimed that Rohingya refugees, transported to airports and flown to Port Blair, were forcibly put on naval ships with their hands tied and eyes blindfolded.

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed before the Supreme Court alleging "forcible deportation" of Rohingya refugees by the government to Myanmar.

Alleging that around 43 Rohingya refugees, including children, women, the elderly and persons with serious health conditions, had been deported forcefully, the petitioners sought directions for the government to fly them back to Delhi and release them from custody.

The plea claimed that Rohingya refugees, transported to airports and flown to Port Blair, were forcibly put on naval ships



with their hands tied and eyes blindfolded. It has also been alleged that the detainees were abandoned in the sea without regard for their lives or safety.

The detainees were taken for their biometric collection but were not released thereafter, it added.

The Centre's counsel, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, referred to the April 8, 2021 order of the top court, saying it bound the government to take deportation action in accordance with law.

A bench led by Justice Surya Kant, which has been considering cases regarding Rohingya refugees, was on April 8 informed by the counsel of the detainees, and said that Rohingya refugees with UNHCR cards were arrested and deported.

■ Source: indiatoday.in

EU DEMANDS ACCOUNTABILITY FOR MYANMAR SCHOOL STRIKE

The EU on Wednesday voiced shock at a deadly air strike on a school in central Myanmar, warning the "perpetrators must be held accountable for this atrocity".

A Myanmar junta air strike on Monday killed 20 students and two teachers in the village of Oe Htein Kwin in the country's Sagaing region, according to a school staff member, a local administrator, and other witnesses.

"We are horrified over reports of a massacre in a village school in Sagaing," EU foreign affairs spokeswoman, Anitta Hipper, said on X. "Our deepest condolences to the families of the victims, most of them children."

The strike took place during a purported truce -- to ease aid after March's devastating magnitude-7.7 quake -- between the junta, which seized power in 2021, and guerrilla fighters.

■ Source: bssnews.net

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HUMANITARIAN CORRIDOR
TO MYANMAR'S RAKHINE
STATE WILL DRAG BD TO
WAR: HAFIZ



BNP Standing Committee member Major (ret'd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed on Tuesday said the government has kept the public and political parties in the dark about the 'humanitarian corridor' to Myanmar's Rakhine State.

Speaking at a roundtable discussion at the Jatiya Press Club, commemorating populist leader Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani's long march towards the Farakka Dam 49 years ago, he said, "We are deeply worried that the current government is talking about a humanitarian corridor to Rakhine."

"We don't know what kind of corridor it will be the people don't know, the political parties don't know what its purpose is. Are we going to get involved in a new war?" he asked. On such a crucial issue, the BNP leader said the government should have discussed it with political parties. Hafiz said that the Foreign Affairs Adviser and the Chief Adviser's Press Secretary made conflicting statements regarding the corridor.

■ Source: observerbd.com

INDIA PUSHED OUT ROHINGYA REFUGEES
TO INTENSE BATTLEFIELD, NUG EXTENDS
PROTECTION

Jabeda Khatun couldn't fight back her tears when Maktoob showed a photo of her daughter Anuwara Bagum and her granddaughter Asma Aletar from Myanmar's Tanintharyi region. Asma's wedding was planned for 20 May, and arrangements were underway.

Neighbours who had gathered joined her. It was a sigh of relief for some that they are safe, but the memories of a genocide in that land worry them.

Maktoob received the evidence that 40 Rohingya refugees India threw in the sea near the Myanmar coast are safe and now under the protection of the National Unity Government (NUG), a coalition of pro-democracy groups formed after the military coup in 2021.

Since then, they have been engaged in armed conflict with the Junta government.

A wing of the People's Defence Force, the armed wing of the NUG, shared data that Maktoob cross-verified with family members of the people who were expelled

inhumanely by Indian authorities. Aung Kyaw Moe, Deputy Human Rights Minister of the Myanmar National Unity Government, in a message to Maktoob, said that the Rohingya groups are "safe" and provided with "necessary assistance". He said NUG will do their best to ensure that these people are able to "contact their families".

Moe is the first Rohingya person to serve in a ministerial position within the NUG.

The petition filed in the Supreme Court of India by Asma's uncle Mohammed Ismail, states that "children as young as 15, female minors as young as 16, senior citizens up to 66 years old, and people suffering from cancer and other ailments were among those abandoned into the sea without regard for their lives or safety".

Although a petition listed 43 people, the figure shared by NUG misses three names who are presumed to be still in detention in Delhi.

■ Source: maktoobmedia.com