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"WE ARE STATELESS, BUT NOT VOICELESS": ROHINGYA REFUGEES SPEAK OUT

Rohingya refugees in India are facing an "unprecedented crisis" with people being "detained arbitrarily, and denied legal protection," said Sabber Kyaw Min, founder and director of Rohingya Human Rights Initiative (RHRI) on May 19.

"We are stateless, but we are not voiceless," said Min. "We will continue to speak up for our people until justice is done," he said.

Min was speaking through a video call at a press conference organised by the RHRI at the Press Club of India, New Delhi. He told Outlook that he could not be there in person due to "safety concerns."

The RHRI, along with People's Union of Civil Liberties (PUCL), Human Rights Law Network (HRLN) and the Azadi Project, held the press conference just days after the Supreme Court of India (SC) refused to

Days after the Supreme Court of India refused to stay the forced deportation of 43 Rohingya people, the Rohingya Human Rights Initiative spoke out on May 19 with the support of allied organisations and civil society

stay the forced deportation of Rohingya refugees. The meeting also took place a week after 43 refugees were allegedly flown from Delhi to Port Blair in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and then dropped into international waters near Myanmar.

The event, which included talks from Min, Azadi Project's Priyali Sur, Senior Advocate Colin Gonsalves of HRLN, and first-hand testimonies from community members, including several women. The community is asking Indian authorities to respect their right to life under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.

■ Source: outlookindia.com

INDIA-MYANMAR: VOLATILE BORDER – ANALYSIS



Rickhawdar (left; Myanmar) – Zokhawthar (right; India) border crossing. Photo Credit: Ericwinny, Wikipedia Commons

The security landscape along the Indo-Myanmar border in Manipur has witnessed a significant deterioration in 2025, reflecting a complex interplay of ethnic tensions, insurgent activity, and strategic recalibrations by the Indian Government.

With 37 insurgent fatalities recorded in four major encounters in 2025 alone – the region has emerged as a hotspot of militant violence.

These incidents have largely involved Myanmar-based groups such as the KNA-B, and Manipur-based groups including the PLA, KYKL, UNLF, and KCP, underscoring the cross-border nature of the threat.

■ Source: eurasiareview.com

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BANGLADESH’S STRATEGIC
TIGHTROPE IN RAKHINE



where the Arakan Army (AA) has consolidated control over significant swathes of territory, an estimated 1.2 million people—Rohingya Muslims and ethnic Rakhine Buddhists—face severe food shortages amid escalating conflict. The UN warns of famine-like conditions, exacerbated by Myanmar’s military junta blocking humanitarian access since 2023. For Bangladesh, which already hosts over 960,000 Rohingya refugees (UNHCR, 2023), a proposal to open a cross-border aid channel has sparked fierce debate.

The channel, first proposed by the UN in early 2024, is framed as a lifeline for starving civilians. Yet critics argue it risks drawing Bangladesh into Myanmar’s civil war, complicating relations with regional powers like China and India, and inflaming domestic political tensions. As former Bangladeshi Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque noted in a 2024 interview with The Daily Star, “Humanitarian gestures can become geopolitical traps if divorced from hard-nosed realism.”

■ Source: thedailystar.net

MYANMAR’S RAKHINE STATE AT A
CROSSROADS: REGIONAL POWER
STRUGGLES AND BANGLADESH’S
ROHINGYA DILEMMA

The Rakhine State in Myanmar, the ancestral home of the Rohingyas, is undergoing a seismic transformation. The Arakan Army, once a rebel group fighting for autonomy, now controls vast swathes of the region, including crucial areas along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border. This shift in power dynamics has cast a long shadow over the already precarious existence of the Rohingyas, often defined as one of the world’s most persecuted minorities. As Bangladesh grapples with political instability at home, the fate of over a million stateless Rohingyas hangs in the balance, their future uncertain amid Rakhine’s rapidly evolving political landscape.

Bangladesh-Myanmar
Border in Flux

The February 2021 military coup in Myanmar and the subsequent full-scale civil war between the military junta and various ethnic armed groups have deeply destabilized the Bangladesh-Myanmar border.

The breakdown of the ceasefire between the Arakan Army and the Tatmadaw in November 2023 has reignited intense conflict in Rakhine, with the Rohingya caught in the crossfire. As the Arakan Army swiftly advanced and captured key positions—including the strategic town of Maungdaw, home to much of Myanmar’s remaining Rohingya population, it established control over nearly all 271 kilometers (168 miles) of the frontier with Bangladesh. This dramatic territorial gain has made it the largest area controlled by any non-state armed group in the country. The evolving situation has destabilized the region in multiple ways. Cross-border violence, including gunfire and mortar shelling from inside Myanmar, has spilled into Bangladeshi territory, resulting in civilian casualties and highlighting the urgent need for cross-border security mechanisms. With the Myanmar military in retreat, Rakhine has become effectively autonomous, leaving Bangladesh without a formal state counterpart to coordinate on pressing issues such as security, displacement, and border governance.

■ Source: gjia.georgetown.edu



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