

# ROHINGYA PRESS

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## HOW ROHINGYAS WERE EXPELLED FROM ASSAM DETENTION CENTRE, DESPITE THEIR PLEAS PENDING IN COURT



India's largest detention centre in Assam's Matia. Credit: Rokibuz Zaman

The inmates have been “pushed back” into Bangladesh, said the chief minister. Lawyers said the deportation underlined how vulnerable refugees are in India.

In 2020, Mahammad Arfat, a Rohingya refugee from Myanmar, was arrested in Assam. Arfat, who holds a refugee card attested by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, was convicted of entering India illegally and sentenced to a year in jail.

Once his jail term was over, he was sent to the Matia transit camp, the largest detention centre in India.

In 2023, his brother, who was then living in Jammu, had moved the Gauhati High Court seeking his release from the camp, according to high court orders accessed by Scroll.

On April 23, the court observed that “the matter was listed on countless occasions and yet has not been able to be resolved by the respondents”. It directed the Union government to file an affidavit by May 14.

“We make it clear that on failure to file such an affidavit, we may be constrained to have the concerned Officer present in the Court to explain the matter,” it said.

■ Source: scroll.in

## BANGLADESH FOCUSED ON SENDING AID TO RAKHINE, NOT OPENING CORRIDOR: KHALILUR

National Security Advisor Khalilur Rahman has dismissed the proposed establishment of a relief corridor into Rakhine as a “rumour”, saying only sending aid to the war-torn Myanmar state was being discussed.

Khalilur, who is also the chief advisor's high representative for Rohingya issues and priority affairs, said this at a briefing at the Foreign Service Academy on Wednesday.

He said, “I know that there is a rumour that Bangladesh is planning a corridor with UN assistance in Myanmar. I want to make it clear that no one has talked to us about a corridor. And no such discussions will be held with anyone.

“The matter of the corridor needs to be understood. It is a system to evacuate people from areas affected by a disaster as an emergency. But we are not evacuating anyone anywhere.”

■ Source: bdnews24.com

### More News:

■ Saudi Arabia donates 667 tonnes of dates to support rohingya refugee children for WFP’s school feeding programme, in Cox’s Bazar and Bhasan Char



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**‘I SAW A SHIP DROPPING MANY PEOPLE INTO THE SEA’: INDIA ACCUSED OF RETURNING ROHINGYA REFUGEES TO MYANMAR**

Fisherman Nye Nge Soe was returning from a night’s work to his village in Tanintharyi, the southernmost region of Myanmar, when he saw dark figures bobbing among the waves about 50m from the shore.

“It was almost 1am. From my boat, I saw a ship dropping many people into the sea. I could hear them shouting,” Mr Nye Nge Soe told The Straits Times over the phone, when describing events on the night of May 8.

“They had life jackets, but the water is 2m deep there. There were old people and women who could not swim. A ship crew (from our village) threw them a long rope. I watched the people swim to the shore holding this rope,” the 22-year-old said.

It was only in the light of dawn that Mr Nye Nge Soe realised that the people they had rescued were Rohingya – an ethnic Muslim minority group in Myanmar.

As the villagers gave the new arrivals food, water and dry clothes, the refugees told them that they had been deported from India.

■ Source: straitstimes.com

**JUSTICE FOR ALL’S BURMA TASK FORCE CONDEMNS INDIA’S FORCED EXPULSION OF ROHINGYA REFUGEES, CALLS FOR URGENT INTERNATIONAL ACTION**

Justice For All’s Burma Task Force is horrified by credible reports that Indian authorities forcibly removed Rohingya refugees from an Indian naval vessel and abandoned them at sea near Burma. These actions constitute a flagrant violation of international law, including the principle of non-refoulement, which prohibits returning refugees to situations where they face persecution, violence or death. “The forced expulsion of Rohingya refugees into the Andaman Sea is an unconscionable act of cruelty,” said Imam Malik Mujahid, President of Justice For All’s Burma Task Force. “India, as a democracy and a signatory to key human rights conventions, has a legal and moral obligation to protect refugees—not cast them into danger. We demand an immediate end to these deportations, complete transparency as to the Rohingya refugees held in Indian detention centers and investigation and full accountability for those responsible.”

**Key Demands to the International Community:**

**1. To the United Nations:**

-Fully support U.N. Special Rapporteur Tom Andrews’ investigation into India’s forced expulsions.

-Upon completion of the investigative report, convene an urgent U.N. Security Council meeting to address India’s violations and the escalating crisis in Burma.

- Ensure ASEAN’s Contact Group on Burma, led by Malaysia, takes immediate action based on the forthcoming report’s findings.

**2. To the Government of India:**

-Immediately halt all deportations of Rohingya refugees to Burma.

-Grant full access to detention centers where Rohingya are being held for U.N. investigators and human rights monitors.

-Provide transparency on the whereabouts and condition of the refugees forcibly removed to sea.

**3. To the U.S. State Department:**

-Publicly condemn India’s actions and demand accountability.

-Raise the issue with the Indian Ambassador to the United States.

-Leverage diplomatic channels to pressure India to comply with international refugee law.

-Increase humanitarian aid to both the Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar and those remaining within Burma and work to establish safe and secure resettlement pathways for Rohingya refugees.

■Source: justiceforall.org