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427 ROHINGYA MAY HAVE PERISHED AT SEA IN TWO SHIPWRECKS IN MAY: UN



© UNHCR/Amanda Jufrian Rohingya refugees are rescued by local authorities and the community in South Aceh, Indonesia, after a perilous journey that claimed lives. (Oct 2024)

At least 427 Rohingya, Myanmar’s Muslim minority, may have perished at sea in two shipwrecks on May 9 and 10, the United Nations said, in what would be another deadly incident for the persecuted group. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said in a statement on Friday that – if confirmed – the two incidents would be the “deadliest tragedy at sea” involving Rohingya refugees so far this year. “The UN refugee agency is gravely concerned about reports of two boat tragedies off the coast of Myanmar earlier this month,” UNHCR said in the statement, adding

that it was still working to the exact circumstances surrounding the shipwrecks. According to the agency, preliminary information indicated that a vessel carrying 267 people sank on May 9, with only 66 people surviving, and a second ship with 247 Rohingya on board capsized on May 10, with just 21 survivors.

The Rohingya on board were either leaving Bangladesh’s huge Cox’s Bazar refugee camps or fleeing Myanmar’s western state of Rakhine, the statement said. Persecuted in Myanmar for decades, thousands of Rohingya risk their lives every year to flee repression and civil war in their country, often going to sea on board makeshift boats.

In a post on X, UNHCR High Commissioner Filippo Grandi said news of the double tragedy was “a reminder of the desperate situation” of the Rohingya “and of the hardship faced by refugees in Bangladesh as humanitarian aid dwindles”.

■ Source: aljazeera.com

15 ILLEGALLY STAYING ROHINGYAS ARRESTED IN VIJAYAWADA SUBURBS, FOUND WORKING AS CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

Preliminary investigation revealed that the Rohingyas arrested in the suburbs of Vijayawada have no links with terrorist groups.

The Vijayawada Task Force police arrested 15 Rohingyas residing illegally in Tadigadapa, located in the suburbs of the city. After receiving intelligence inputs, the police detained the group from three different locations in the city suburbs and shifted them to Vijayawada for further investigation. Eight of these Rohingyas were detained from a house in Tadigadapa early Friday morning. When questioned, the house owner told the police that the property was rented out on May 9 to a woman and a man, whom a man working at a construction site in Autonagar had referred. However, the woman left the house on Sunday, and only the man was staying there. Later, after midnight on Thursday, seven more youths arrived and took shelter in the house, bringing the total to eight detainees.

■ Source: etvbharat.com

More News:

■ The United League of Arakan (ULA) has banned adults aged up to 45 from leaving Rakhine State while its armed wing, the Arakan Army (AA), is conscripting residents.

■ Source: irrawaddy.com



ROHINGYA REFUGEES IN INDIA FACE HEIGHTENED PERSECUTION FOLLOWING PAHALGAM INCIDENT

Rohingya Muslim refugees living in India are reportedly facing increased harassment and threats of deportation in the wake of the Modi government's reaction to the recent Pahalgam false flag operation.

The Indian government has accused members of the Rohingya refugee community of alleged involvement in terrorism, though no credible evidence has been provided to support the claims.

In the aftermath of the incident, authorities have issued directives for the arrest and deportation of Rohingya refugees, sparking outrage among human rights defenders and civil society organizations.

International human rights groups have condemned the move, calling the deportation of registered refugees a serious violation of international law, particularly the principles of non-refoulement under the 1951 Refugee Convention, which prohibits the return of individuals to countries where they may face persecution.

■ Source: ptv.com.pk

‘THEY LOOK DOWN ON US FOR BEING MUSLIMS’: KAMAN MARGINALISED IN YANGON



A housing block in downtown Yangon seen in December 2017. Kaman Muslims fleeing war in Rakhine State complain of housing discrimination in the city. (AFP)

After fleeing conflict in their native Rakhine State, members of the Kaman Muslim minority group are facing work and housing discrimination in Myanmar's commercial capital.

Ma Ni Nwe fled to Yangon in August last year to escape the conflict between the Arakan Army and the regime in her home state of Rakhine. Although she was safe in the city, the 30-year-old Kaman woman found life there much harder than she had anticipated. This was not just because of the dire state of the economy and the oppressions of military rule, but also because of who she was. “At first, I thought I had a good chance of getting a job. Employers would look at my CV and seem interested, but everything changed as soon as I mentioned that I’m Kaman,” she said, using a pseudonym to protect her identity. “Suddenly, they’d come up with polite excuses

like ‘the position is already filled’. They weren’t rude, but after a while it became clear that getting a job would be really hard for me.”

Ni Nwe had moved to Yangon with her 70-year-old mother and two children. As a single mother and the family’s sole breadwinner, she ran a small grocery shop in her village in Rakhine’s Ramree Township until conflict made life there untenable.

She has experienced discrimination all her life as a member of the Kaman ethnic group. Mostly resident in southern Rakhine, they are Muslims claiming descent from archers in the army of the old Rakhine kings. The Kaman National Development Party claims there are only about 15,000 of them in Myanmar, but other estimates are closer to 50,000.

Unlike the Rohingya, another Muslim group in the state, the Kaman are recognised as one of the “national races” of Myanmar and therefore entitled to full citizenship in principle.

However, anti-Muslim bias means they are often denied citizenship documents in practice. This makes it hard for them to travel or enter university and a range of professions, among other things.

■ Source: frontiermyanmar.net