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## ILLEGAL BORDER CROSSINGS: 3 ROHINGYA WOMEN, ONE B'DESHI YOUTH DETAINED

Two separate incidents of illegal border crossing have sparked widespread concern in South Dinajpur district. Three young Rohingya women and one Bangladeshi youth have been detained by local police in connection with unauthorised entry into India. In the first case, three Rohingya women were arrested near the Hili border while attempting to return to Bangladesh.

According to preliminary police interrogation, the trio had originally fled Myanmar's Rakhine state around 12 years ago and entered Bangladesh with their families. About eight years ago, they reportedly crossed into India illegally through a porous stretch of the border. Aged between 20 and 22, the women have spent time in various parts of northern India, including Jammu and Kashmir, raising national security concerns. Local residents at Hili grew suspicious due to the women's attire and language and alerted the police.



Hili Land Port is located in the Dakshin Dinajpur district of West Bengal along the international border between India and Bangladesh.

The women failed to produce any Indian identification during questioning and eventually confessed to their Rohingya identity. They were taken into custody and presented before a court, after which they were placed in police remand for further interrogation.

DSP (Sadar), Bikram Prasad, stated: "The women possessed no valid Indian documents. We are investigating who may have assisted them in crossing the border and their activities while in India." Sources say the matter has been reported to the Ministry of Home Affairs and a central team may soon visit Hili for further investigation.

■ Source: millenniumpost.in

## BANGLADESH RECALLS AMBASSADOR FROM MYANMAR

Bangladesh has recalled its ambassador from Myanmar, a Bangladeshi foreign ministry official said on Thursday, after it acknowledged opening a communications line with a rebel army fighting its neighbour's military junta. Monowar Hossain, who had been serving in Myanmar's capital Naypyidaw since mid-2023, was told to return to Dhaka with immediate effect, said the official, describing it as an "administrative decision" without giving further reasons.

Relations between Bangladesh and Myanmar have been strained by the Rohingya refugee crisis and border security concerns. A Myanmar junta spokesperson was not available for comment. More than 1.2 million Rohingya are sheltering in Bangladesh, with the U.N. warning that widespread hunger in western Rakhine state could trigger fresh displacement. Over 130,000 people are thought to have crossed in the past year, Bangladesh says.

■ Source: reuters.com

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■ Rohingya groups condemn 'global neglect' after 427 refugees feared drowned at sea : U.N. says two boats carrying Rohingya from Bangladesh camps sank off Myanmar this month and just 87 people survived.



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**ROHINGYA GROUPS CALL FOR SANCTIONS ON ARAKAN ARMY OVER RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**



Rohingya groups on Thursday called on Western countries to impose sanctions on the Arakan Army and its leaders over rights violations in Arakan State of Myanmar and the Bay of Bengal.

In a joint statement, 26 Rohingya groups from Australia, the US, Canada, New Zealand, the UK, and several other countries strongly condemned the ongoing killing, arrests, and human rights violations of Rohingya.

"Western countries which have sanctioned the Burmese military for human rights violations need to explain why they have not also sanctioned the Arakan Army, which is committing the same human rights violations against Rohingya," it said.

The groups said that Rohingya fleeing from their areas due to Arakan Army violence are facing boat incidents, and hundreds of them have lost their lives. ■ Source: jagonews24.com

**INDIA EXPELS ROHINGYA HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER AFTER YEARS OF ARBITRARY DETENTION, IGNORING UN RULING, SAFETY CONCERNS**

May 6 marked the final day of Rohingya human rights defender Mohammad Arfat's arbitrary detention in Indian jails. After more than four years behind bars, he was taken to the Bangladesh border and deported under the cover of darkness along with two other Bangladeshi migrants.

"Don't come back. We will shoot you directly," warned an Indian official escorting him from the Matia detention facility in Assam, now renamed the 'transit camp'. Arfat was blindfolded during the journey. He then spent ten days in a Bangladeshi jail while authorities decided what to do with him. As uncertainty mounted, he was overwhelmed by painful memories from his past.

"I felt like taking my life," Arfat told Maktoob from an undisclosed location in Bangladesh, where his prior activism had attracted death threats. "I am tired of being persecuted." India's forced deportation of Arfat, with no due process, came nearly two months after the UN Human Rights Council Working Group on Arbitrary Detention urged the Indian government to end Arfat's detention.

The UN recommended his immediate and unconditional release and asked India to coordinate with the UNHCR to grant him protection, including possible resettlement in a third country.

The Working Group also expressed grave concern that Arfat was experiencing suicidal thoughts after years of detention and required urgent medical care.

Since early May, India has expelled nearly 600 undocumented individuals it deems "illegal migrants". Most were deported at land borders with Bangladesh, but 40 Rohingyas holding UNHCR cards were allegedly pushed into the Andaman Sea near the Myanmar border.

India, which is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol, classifies Rohingya refugees as illegal immigrants under laws such as the Foreigners Act of 1946. This legal position has led to arbitrary detention and deportation, even for those registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

■ Source: maktoobmedia.com