

“Rohingya Refugee Crisis and Violation of Human Rights”

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ABSTRACT: “The Rohingya refugees from northern Rakhine State in Myanmar are living in a precarious situation in their country of asylum, Bangladesh, but have seen significant improvements in recent times.” The Rohingya people are one of the most tormented and oppressed refugee groups in the world. The Rohingya crisis bred from the military junta's extensive violations of human rights in Myanmar against the Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine. The Rohingyas are stateless and they fled to Bangladesh and other neighboring countries to take refuge. Long term negotiation has failed to solve the Rohingya refugee crisis. In this year more than 500,000 Rohingyas slip away from Myanmar to surrounding countries. This article talks to the Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh, with special emphasis on violation of human rights. I check out several documents on Rohingya refugees, look over a registered refugee camp accumulate case reports, and driven a series of meetings with stakeholders in the Cox's Bazar district of Bangladesh. A total of 33,131 registered Rohingya refugees are living in two registered camps in Cox's Bazar, and up to 80,000 additional refugees are housed in nearby makeshift camps. This article traverses that the Rohingya crisis is not only a humanitarian calamity but also intimidation to Bangladesh's internal stability. Bangladesh is trying to fulfill the national interests of the country, and uphold human security issues of Rohingya. Rohingya refugees are spoiling the reputation of Bangladesh in the international arena besides committing various crimes under the guise of fake Bangladeshi passport. Bangladesh is in a quandary over the refugee issues: firstly being the human rights issue and secondly the national security issue. I am of the positive and proactive opinion that it is now the appropriate time that Bangladesh should enact strict domestic laws to prevent the indirectly forced entrance of the Rohingyas from Myanmar.

Keywords: Refugee, Non-refoulement, Rohingya, State Policy, National Security, Statelessness

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I. INTRODUCTION

Rohingya in Myanmar are one of the most oppressed minorities in the world. Myanmar Government denied citizenship of Rohingya that's why thousands of Rohingyas have crossed into neighboring Bangladesh, putting pressure on its scarce resources striving to escape widespread murder, rape, torture, forced labor. Bangladesh is experiencing the ceaseless refugee flight of Muslim Rohingya from Myanmar because of the fear of religious as well as ethnic repression. Bangladesh has mostly accepted them and withhold them protection under the ad hoc decisions, notwithstanding there is no statutory law for the refugees. Bangladesh is in a distress over the refugee issues: firstly being the human rights issue and secondly the internal security issue. The Rohingya refugees have been suffering miserable living conditions marked by slim access to basic needs, disclosure to violence, confined movement, local hostility, and various forms of discrimination. In this review article, we focus on the current situation of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, with special emphasis on violation of human rights. Rohingyas are deprived of basic rights such as healthcare, employment, education and freedom of movement. Lack, denial or loss of nationality underlies the exclusion of affected individuals from membership in the community, to the point of instigating discrimination and oppression in certain cases. Bangladesh has been the preferred destination for the majority of asylum-seeking Rohingyas, because of the initial recognition of their humanitarian needs along with close proximity and matching religion. The Rohingyas have faced decades of avoidance and subsidence under successive Myanmar governments. Effectively denied citizenship under the 1982 Citizenship Law, they are one of the largest stateless populations in the world. Restrictions on movement, restriction on freedom of speech and lack of access to basic health care have led to dire humanitarian conditions for those displaced by earlier waves of violence in 2012, 2016 and 2017.

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Ethnic tension had flared up in Myanmar in recent years, while Rakhine state is being most severely affected. Rohingya population had been persecuted for years and the crisis had sent a mass exodus into neighboring Bangladesh for a number of years, pouring over the border areas. This ethnic tension within Myanmar has given birth to a new armed organization Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) – recently called for an all-out resistance for Rohingya population and Myanmar army had launched a counter offensive, triggering one of the largest refugee influx into Bangladesh in decades. The initial influx of Rohingya to Bangladesh dates back to 1978, with a large arrival in 1991-1992. Presently, a large number of unregistered refugees are living in two official camps managed by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in Nayapara and Kutupalong. During more than 100 years of British rule (1824-1948), many labours migrated to Myanmar from India under British rule and what is now Bangladesh. Under the British administration, Myanmar was a province of India, such migration was considered to be internal, according to Human Rights Watch (HRW). The recent rise of The Buddhist nationalist "969" campaign designed to reincarnate a form of religious nationalism that is different from gentle image of Buddhism, gave the rise of anti-Muslim rhetoric targeting Muslim minority Rohingya population. The MaBaTha, the Association for the Protection of Race and Religion, an organisation led by the two Buddhist monks Ashin Wirathu and Ashin Wimala, made claims of a Muslim plot to take over the country and accused Muslims of marrying and converting Buddhist women. These extremist narratives led campaigns that triggered the anti-Muslim drive that was responsible for the Rohingya mass exodus of people totaling almost 800,000 into Bangladesh throughout decades.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature review significantly examines prior experimental research that discusses the topic and demonstrates the importance of research. The review of literature describes how human rights of Rohingyas are violated drastically. Although there are many research on Rohingya Refugee crisis but how their rights are violated that is not clarify. Nobel laureate and Bangladeshi economist Dr Muhammad Yunus has described the ongoing ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya in Myanmar's Rakhine state as “a human disaster.” Professor Nilufar Yasmin has said “Annan's report spells out in clear terms the corrective actions that must urgently be taken. They include provision of full citizenship to the Rohingya; freedom of movement, rights and equality before the law; communal representation [the lack of which affects the Muslims disproportionately]; and facilitating UN assistance to ensure the safety and security of the Rohingya refugees returning home.” C. R Abrar has added that “The full and immediate implementation of the Annan commission's recommendations will bring the crisis to a swift end,” Professor Masum Alam Khan has said “The blanket restrictions on freedom of movement for Muslim communities clearly violate international human rights law, which requires any limitations to be necessary and proportionate. The restrictions discriminately target the Muslim population and severely constrain their access to livelihood, food, health care and education. Lifting these restrictions is essential in order to address other human rights and humanitarian concerns in Rakhine State. Professor FaridUddin Ahmed said “Sexual and gender-based violence perpetrated by security forces against the Rohingya in Rakhine State has been reported for decades. Its prevalence has, however, most likely been underreported owing to lack of access to justice, cultural barriers, stigma and fear of reprisal.” Professor Abur Bashir said “Domestic violence has been reported within the Rohingya community. Protracted displacement, overcrowding in camps, the lack of livelihoods and constraints on all aspects of life exacerbate tensions and the risk of domestic violence. The lack of available and accessible health and other support services remains a concern.”

2.1 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The study has been designed to focus on Rohingya Refugee crisis and Violation of human rights. The main objectives of the study are classified into two forms.

➤ Broad objective:

The purpose of the study is to examine fundamental rights of Rohingyas are violated during the recent time

➤ Specific objective:

- 1) To discuss the present situation of Rohingya Refugees
- 2) To investigate, analyze and evaluate the role of UNHCR to mitigate sufferings of Rohingya Refugees.
- 3) To examine the level of transparency and accountability of UNHCR combating the situation.
- 4) To provide a brief discussion about the reasons behind the expansion of militancy and religious fundamentalism in the country.
- 5) To examine the causes and impact of statelessness.

2.2 ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

This section conceptualizes whether Rohingyas can be defined as ‘refugees’. Therefore, the part tends to analyze humanity, human rights, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, concept of refugee and Rohingya Refugees within these theoretical frameworks.

2.3 HUMANITY

Humanity is the human race, which includes everyone on Earth. It’s also a word for the qualities that make us human, such as the ability to love and have compassion, be creative, and not be a robot or alien. The word *humanity* is from the Latin *humanitas* for "human nature, kindness." *Humanity* includes all the humans, but it can also refer to the kind feelings humans often have for each other. Awww. But when you talk about humanity, you could just be talking about people as a whole. When people do bad things, it tests your faith in humanity. When people ask for money to help feed starving children, they’re appealing to your sense of humanity.

2.4 HUMAN RIGHTS

Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status. We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible. Universal human rights are often expressed and guaranteed by law, in the forms of treaties, customary international law, general principles and other sources of international law. International human rights law lays down obligations of Governments to act in certain ways or to refrain from certain acts, in order to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals or groups. All human rights are indivisible, whether they are civil and political rights, such as the right to life, equality before the law and freedom of expression; economic, social and cultural rights, such as the rights to work, social security and education, or collective rights, such as the rights to development and self-determination, are indivisible, interrelated and interdependent. Non-discrimination is a cross-cutting principle in international human rights law. The principle is present in all the major human rights treaties and provides the central theme of some of international human rights conventions such as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The principle of non-discrimination is complemented by the principle of equality, as stated in Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” Human rights entail both rights and obligations. States assume obligations and duties under international law to respect, to protect and to fulfill human rights. The obligation to respect means that States must refrain from interfering with or curtailing the enjoyment of human rights. The obligation to protect requires States to protect individuals and groups against human rights abuses. The obligation to fulfill means that States must take positive action to facilitate the enjoyment of basic human rights. At the individual level, while we are entitled our human rights, we should also respect the human rights of others.

2.4 THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a milestone document in the history of human rights. Drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 by General Assembly resolution 217 A (III) as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations. It sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected. Since its adoption in 1948, the UDHR has been translated into more than 501 languages – the most translated document in the world - and has inspired the constitutions of many newly independent States and many new democracies. The UDHR, together with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its two Optional Protocols (on the complaints procedure and on the death penalty) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its Optional Protocol, form the so-called International Bill of Human Rights.

2.5 WHO IS REFUGEE?

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries. The notion of the protection of ‘refugee’, the responsibility of international community and solution for refugees first came into attention at the League of Nations. In the aftermath of the Second World War, the International Refugee Organization (IRO) that was created in 1947 started dealing with the problems of refugees in Europe. Later, the General Assembly adopted the Statute of the UNHCR on December 14, 1950 replacing the IRO. Finally, the

well-accepted definition of ‘refugee’ derived from the 1951 International Convention on the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol on the Status of Refugees namely the 1967 Protocol. The Statute of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees no longer define ‘refugee’ simply as a displaced person, rather identify in specific terms. According to the Article 1 A. (2) of the 1951 Refugee Convention, a refugee is a person who, [O]wing to well-founded fear¹⁰ of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it. The Organization of African Unity’s 1969 Convention on Refugee Problems in Africa namely the African Convention defines: Every person who, owing to external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disturbing public order in either part of the whole of his country of origin or nationality, is compelled to leave his place of habitual residence in order to seek refuge in another place outside his country of origin or nationality. Though all these concepts focus on individual persecution excluding people fleeing from war and civil strife, every Rohingya falls under the universal concept of ‘refugee’.

2.6 ROHINGYA REFUGEE

The Rohingya are a Muslim ethnic minority group from Myanmar's Rakhine state. Officially, Myanmar's government does not recognize the Rohingya as citizens. The government claims they were brought to Rakhine from Bangladesh during the time when Myanmar was a British colony, and the government says they are living in Myanmar illegally. Ask the Rohingya and they’ll tell you they have been in the region for over a century, and some claim to have been in the region from as early as the eighth century. “The answer to that question is highly contested, particularly by those who want to politicize the issue,” said John Knaus, the associate director of the Asia division at the National Endowment for Democracy. Regardless of when the Rohingya arrived in Myanmar, the military junta that controlled Myanmar until recently denied them citizenship in 1982, leaving them stateless and vulnerable.

2.7 Rohingya refugee crisis timeline

With a number of factors contributing to the increased tensions and spikes of Rohingya seeking refuge, the individual events of the Rohingya refugee crisis can sometimes become blurred. Here is a brief timeline to highlight the key events, attacks and conflicts that elevated the critical and emergency alert status of the Rohingya refugee crisis:

- 1962: Military rule becomes the norm and law throughout Myanmar. As a result, the Muslim population in Rakhine State is overpowered by militants and a Buddhist majority. Refugees begin fleeing to Bangladesh as multiple government campaigns forcibly displace Myanmar Nationals.
- 1982: An official Myanmar announcement declares 135 nationally recognized ethnic groups. The Rohingya are not included, leaving them stateless and without citizenship.
- June and October 2012: Targeted religious violence in Rakhine State noticeably affects large groups of Rohingya. More than 200 people are killed, and another 150,000 rendered homeless.
- 2014: The first official census in decades is conducted — and the Rohingya are forbidden to participate.
- November 2015: Democratic elections are held for the first time since the easing of military rule. The Rohingya are excluded from participating as both candidates and voters.
- October 9, 2016: Armed conflicts in Rakhine State cause 87,000 Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh.
- August 25, 2017: Violence again erupts and a series of attacks, with deaths on both sides, catalyzes the current movement of Rohingya people into camps within Cox's Bazar.
- April 2018: An estimated 781,000 refugees have set up camp in nine settlements within Cox's Bazar.

There are still many Rohingya in Rakhine State, living in internal displacement camps and throughout the region. However, almost 1 million refugees have fled to Bangladesh over the years, with the majority of those arriving since the violent clashes in August 2017. It's easy, when presented with these numbers, to

understand the issue of overcrowding and minimal accessible resources for all of the Rohingya now in Cox's Bazar.

2.9 Where are Rohingya refugees fleeing?

The Rohingya have fled to a variety of countries. While Bangladesh has undoubtedly seen the highest number of refugees, the Rohingya have spread out across Asia by water, risking death, hunger and disease along the way. In 1978, the first flight of refugees began, leading many to cross waters by boat to Southeast Asia and beyond. The Rohingya reside in the following countries:

- Bangladesh
- Thailand
- Philippines
- Malaysia
- Indonesia
- The Gambia
- India
- The United States

2.8 ROHINGYA REFUGEE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The number of refugees and internally displaced persons in need of protection and assistance has increased from 30 million in 1990 to more than 43 million today. War and civil strife have been largely responsible for this epidemic of mass migration that has affected almost every region of the world, including Europe. Since 1990, crude death rates (CDRs) during the early influx of refugees who crossed international borders have been somewhat lower than CDRs reported earlier among Cambodian and Ethiopian refugees. Nevertheless, CDRs among refugees arriving in Ethiopia, Kenya, Nepal, Malawi, and Zimbabwe since 1990 ranged from five to 12 times the baseline CDRs in the countries of origin. Among internally displaced populations in northern Iraq, Somalia, and Sudan, CDRs were extremely high, ranging from 12 to 25 times the baseline CDRs for the nondisplaced. Among both refugees and internally displaced persons, death rates among children less than 5 years of age were far higher than among older children and adults. In Bangladesh, the death rate in female Rohingya refugees was several times higher than in males. Preventable conditions such as diarrheal disease, measles, and acute respiratory infections, exacerbated often by malnutrition, caused most deaths. Although relief programs for refugees have improved since 1990, the situation among the internally displaced may have worsened. The international community should intervene earlier in the evolution of complex disasters involving civil war, human rights abuses, food shortages, and mass displacement. Relief programs need to be based on sound health and nutrition information and should focus on the provision of adequate shelter, food, water, sanitation, and public health programs that prevent mortality from diarrhea, measles, and other communicable diseases, especially among young children and women.

2.9 What's behind the violence against the Rohingya?

The main reason for clashes and violent attacks occurring between the Myanmar government and the Rohingya people lies solely in their differing religious and ethnic identities. Dating back to the 1800s, the British colonized the area of Myanmar. Under British rule, Rakhine saw an expansion of the Muslim community, doubling in a span of 50 years. World War II cleaved a massive divide within the population in Rakhine State. While the Muslims favored the British and allied troops, many of the Buddhists within Rakhine supported the Japanese. After the war, in 1948, Myanmar won independence from British rule. Soon after, the Muslim population began a rebellion in Rakhine State seeking equal rights and autonomy. The government in Myanmar defeated the uprising, cementing the divide and negative prejudice against the Rohingya people. After these defeats, tensions amplified, forcibly displacing the remaining population of the Rohingya people. Myanmar is a country in flux and is still grappling with its vision and identity. For some, that vision does not include the Rohingya at all.

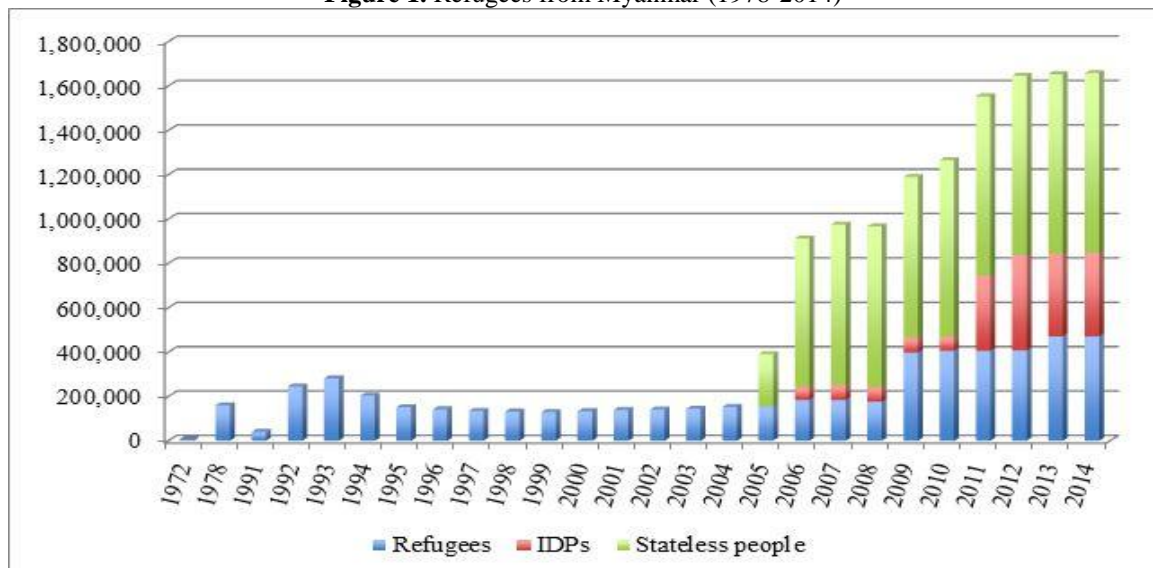
III. ROHINGYA REFUGEE AND SYSTEMATIC HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION

The Rohingya community has suffered the abridgement of fundamental rights, such as freedom of movement, religion, employment, and access to education—a situation made worse by additional measures taken against ethnic identity that limit their rights to get married or even to have children. Consequently, over the years Myanmar, and especially the Rakhine State, has registered an increase in the number of people fleeing the country, mainly towards safer neighboring States. Burma, a country notorious for its harsh military rule that resulted in decades of human rights violations including genocide, recruiting child soldiers and carrying out systematic rape, has been under major political reform since the current government took office in 2011.

Civil liberties have been increased and many political prisoners, most notably Aung San Suu Kyi, have been released. However, despite these promising steps it remains doubtful whether the country and especially its military establishment have cleaned their act for good. During 2012, the Rakhine State riots pitted Burmese Buddhists and Rohingya Muslims against each other, resulting in 100,000 displaced people and close to 200 deaths. A major sign of worry was the discrimination from the side of the military and the police during the riots: almost all of the detained were Rohingyas, and there were multiple reports of torture and beatings to death of detainees. Violent conflict began in Rakhine State in October 2016. Since 25 August 2017, an estimated 537,000 Rohingya refugees have crossed the border into Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh. The distressed and traumatized displaced population – approximately 51 per cent of which are women and girls – lives in terrible conditions and lacks adequate food, water, sanitation, medical care and access to their livelihoods and assets.

ASYLUM UNDER THREAT

Figure 1. Refugees from Myanmar (1978-2014)



Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (U.N.H.C.R.)

Although this data refers to all Myanmar refugees, and therefore also includes those escaping other forms of persecution, what is interesting here is the escalation of the exodus occurring in 1978 and 1992-1993, during discriminatory measures undertaken by Burmese authorities against Rohingyas. The data also shows, beginning in 2005, a sharp rise in the number of stateless people and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)—undoubtedly including some Rohingyas. Of the nearly half a million Rohingya refugees who've fled across the border and have sought refuge in Bangladesh, women and girls are the most at risk, sleeping under open skies, roadsides, and forest areas with little or no protection. More than two-thirds have no shelter, half have no drinking water, and with the existing camps and host communities underequipped to deal with such a large influx, the ground situation is chaotic and volatile.

ROHINGYA REFUGEE WOMEN

The crisis situation disproportionately affects women, girls and the most vulnerable and marginalized Rohingya refugee population groups (based on gender, age, marital status, sex of household head, mental and physical disabilities, sexual orientation and gender identity) by reinforcing, perpetuating and exacerbating pre-existing, persistent gender inequalities, gender-based violence and discrimination.

According to community leaders and interviews with refugees, almost every woman and girl in the Balukhali makeshift settlements in Cox’s Bazar is either a survivor of or a witness to multiple incidences of sexual assault, rape, gang-rape, murder through mutilation or burning alive of a close family member or neighbor. Women and girls have experienced sexual- and gender-based violence, perpetrated by both the Myanmar army and by Rakhine locals (the incidence of this violence has increased in frequency over the last two years). Many women whose sexual assault resulted in conception are reported to have sought out abortions after arriving in Bangladesh. This is a frightening reminder that sexual- and gender-based violence are among the most horrific weapons of war, instruments of terror most often used against women. The recent influx has more than doubled the population living in refugee settlements and stretched the capacities of humanitarian agencies working to provide emergency shelter, access to clean water and sanitation, health-care services,

delivery of food and nutrition support for malnourished girls and boys especially, education, and protective services. Increasing overcrowding and decreasing privacy at all refugee sites elevate safety and security risks, particularly for women and girls.

ROHINGYA REFUGEE CHILDREN

According to the Daily Star (an independent Bangladeshi newspaper), “14,740 orphan Rohingya children have been identified since September 20 in the settlements in Ukhia and Teknaf.”⁵ There are some indications that women and children are turning to negative coping mechanisms to mitigate economic and food insecurity (e.g. selling their remaining assets, participating in the illegal drug trade or engaging in transactional sex). Women and children are also at heightened risk of becoming victims of human trafficking, sexual abuse or child and forced marriage for the same reasons. There is already anecdotal evidence that child marriage is commonly practiced among Rohingyas. Women and adolescent girls between the ages of 13 and 20 newly arriving from Myanmar typically have two to four children each (some of the 13 to 20-year-olds are currently pregnant). There is concern that the economic insecurity of the newly arrived Rohingya population will further encourage this harmful practice.

WATER, SANITATION AND HEALTH SERVICES

Increasing overcrowding and decreasing privacy at all refugee sites elevate safety and security risks, particularly for women and girls. Almost 400,000 refugees need immediate access to water and sanitation. This increased population currently lacks sufficient numbers of latrines, water points and bathing facilities.³ As a result, women and men are forced to share toilets without basic protection measures including gender segregation. Meeting these needs requires at least 59 million liters of potable water per day and 18,000 emergency latrines. Existing health-care facilities are overstretched; sexual and reproductive health services are virtually non-existent. The most vulnerable and marginalized women and girls (including older women, single women, women with disabilities, female-headed households, pregnant women – many of whom are very young – adolescent girls and people with diverse gender identities and sexual orientations) are among the first to experience additional access barriers to scarce and overstretched humanitarian relief services.

EDUCATION

Today, the children of Rohingya refugees are struggling with their future to be saved as they are not recognized as refugees by the both Malaysian government to have access to education and UNHCR as mandated refugees to get resettlement like other refugees. They are marginalized and are languishing in horror situation. Their children are deprived of basic right to education, victims of exploitation and going to be a generation of beggars in Malaysia. As per we know, two things can destroy a nation, illiteracy and poverty. Unfortunately, if we see the ethnic Rohingya, an estimated literacy rate of the Rohingya children both in home and exile are less than 0.5%. Literacy rate in Malaysia is “0”%. It is very pitiful situation for the Rohingya community and true that Rohingya nation has lost their future. So, the education is most important to develop to any nation and to know what is the right and wrong things to get the basic rights in the future. Education is backbone of the Nation; Today’s children are tomorrow’s future. Peculiarly, Rohingya children in Malaysia don’t have access to get education. Rohingyas existence as a nation or ethnic group of Burma is depends on their children. Without education they are blind and unable to fight for their future due to lack of knowledge.

IV. ROHINGYA REFUGEE CRISIS IN BANGLADESH: SECURITY CONCERN

At present Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh exert security threats and challenges to the nation. The challenges will range from human security, food security, health security, livelihood security, environmental security etc. Analyses of some of the key issues are as follows:

HUMAN SECURITY

The Rohingya refugees who are completely marginalized are most penetrable to the human trafficking. It has been stated that international human trafficking gangs are actively looking at this situation to exploit the vulnerability of the Rohingya for profiteering. It is also known that many Rohingya families arriving in Bangladesh are without any male family members. Large number of young women and children will fall victim of the trafficking gangs and sell in international markets for prostitution and slave labor.

FOOD SECURITY

There is gross food insecurity within the displaced Rohingya refugee population arriving in Bangladesh. This is resulting in malnutrition and allied problems of food insecurity with refugee population. Unless the food situation improves on an urgent basis, there is a possibility that more Rohingya children could

die of food shortage and malnutrition. The country has to rely on the food grains for domestic consumption. Bangladesh is most likely to experience food shortage as more influx of the refugees keep pouring over the borders. The undetermined number of people arriving in Bangladesh would contribute to price hike in the local market. This will create instability in the local food grain market as the number of refugee increases. The lack of food grain would create a series of complex problem. The recent flood has already created more demands of the food grains, thus the possibility of shortage can drag on to the next harvest season.

HEALTH SECURITY

The health security of the Rohingya refugees is also a cause of concern. Any contagious diseases that rely on the human host has the potential to become an epidemic as refugees are living in densely packed camps. Refugees arriving in the camps in Bangladesh are living in subhuman conditions without access to adequate hygienic facilities. The health conditions of thousands of migrants in the camps are not documented. Many of the arriving refugees are already carrying a number of diseases, including TB, skin diseases and HIV/AIDS etc. These epidemic diseases could overwhelm the health service resources in the refugee camps, also poses a risk of spreading among the general population within Bangladesh as refugees continue to move from one place to another for work. The absence of the safe drinking water might contribute to Diarrhea and Cholera that could spread to the local population. The examples from the Haiti and Yemen must be kept in mind this regard.

LIVELIHOOD SECURITY

The labour market revolves around dynamics of demand and supply. The stability of the market is achieved through constant balance between the availability of work and the workforces. The mass exodus of Rohingya in Bangladesh would jeopardize the market balance. The labour market will be unstable as supply will be more than the demand. This could disrupt the cohesion in the society and more problems would arise as the number of the jobless people will seek whatever means necessary to make a living. A possible resistance could come from the host community due to the situation that may create pockets of instability.

ENIRONMENT SECURITY

Due to the large influx of the Rohingya refugees, many fail to find accommodation within the camps. As a result, many of them have spread out in the nearby hills. They have resorted to wide spread deforestation, causing severe degradation of the locality. Bangladesh is already vulnerable to the environmental challenges. The country now is facing a new threat from human induced degradation of the environment that can have a long term impact on our environmental security.

5.1 IMPACT OF THE ROHINGYA CRISIS ON BANGLADESH

The unprecedented exodus of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar into southeastern Bangladesh has many locals worried about the future. The south Asian nation is already afflicted by overpopulation and poverty. The local Bangladeshis are trying to be hospitable, but the impact of the enormous influx is weighing heavily on daily life. Locals have serious concerns over how all these extra people will impact their future. The mass escape of Rohingya, who have been persecuted and discriminated in Myanmar for decades, is far from new. The movement of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya into Bangladesh in a short period, driven by the cruel, sadistic Myanmar army, is causing grave damage to Bangladesh. Indeed it is an act of war. Those who perpetuated this crime should be punished. Those who support the genocide should be looked upon with suspicion. This article explores some of the consequences.

▪ **Assumptions a:** The inflow of Rohingya refugees will continue despite the alleged efforts of the Myanmar military to slow down the influx. The end position will be about 750,000 Rohingya will have entered Bangladesh since January 1, 2017. By the end of 2017 there will be few Rohingya left in Myanmar. We estimate 150,000 will have been killed leaving within Myanmar about 100,000 of the original one million. Our estimate of the killings was presented in the third article. We have reviewed our methodology and find that it continues to be the best available estimating method.

▪ **Assumptions b:** There will be no return of Rohingya to Myanmar through 2018. The Myanmar Government is putting out a fake story that it will allow Rohingya back who have “documentation”. There is little documentation that has ever been made available to ordinary Rohingya and the refugees have likely lost much of what they might have had. There are many countries claiming that the Rohingya will return; in reality few will. The driving out of the Rohingya was a carefully designed ethnic cleansing triggered by an ARSA attack on facilities of the Myanmar Government. It was the Myanmar army who manipulated the ARSA to attack. While our assumption is limited to 12 months, it is unlikely that many persons will be returned over the next two years.

- **Assumptions c:** While the government of Bangladesh will and should push for return it is unlikely much progress can be made in the next 12 months. The Myanmar Government will stall, committees will be formed, meetings will be held, calls for sorting out origins will be made, arguments over citizenship extended. The talk will go on and on as it does. The UN will pontificate, the Western countries will feebly demand action, Russian and China will call for a meaningless gradual approach. All of this will result in no significant positive result.

IMPACT ON THE COX’SBAZAR AREA: The impact on the southern part of Bangladesh along the border with Myanmar will be devastating. There are Rohingya spread out over much of the area and it will be many months before they will have proper shelter, water supply and sanitation. In the meantime there is widespread chaos as people fight for a place to shelter. The assumption of this note is that the Rohingya will not return to Myanmar before one year. Actually it is unlikely that they will ever return. Hopefully some of these refugees will be relocated to other countries but that is very uncertain. Most will stay in Bangladesh. How to manage the long term problem is unclear. Over time many will find their way to other locations in Bangladesh. However, one must assume that in the Cox’s Bazaar area there will be several hundred thousand for the next three years. The Government will best deal with this by allowing the Rohingya to go to school and to work. There is no reason that they should not go to work and contribute something to Bangladesh and cover their own costs. Their presence will disrupt the Cox’s Bazaar area for years to come. At least education and employment will ease everyone’s problems. Available data indicate that Bangladeshis with low levels of education are fully employed, so the Rohingya do not really threaten Bangladesh jobs.

IMPACT ON POLITICS: The major political event in the next two years is the Parliamentary election. The prime minister has done a very good job in managing the Rohingya crisis. Her international standing will certainly rise after her humane, firm handling of this catastrophe. There will be plenty of difficulty in the next few months as the refugees struggle to get settled, find adequate shelter, as everyone works to establish medical facilities, to feed and care for the refugees and to control the movement and location of the Rohingya. No one should think that management of this great inflow is simple. Conflicts and tragedy will occur. But it is likely that the continuing steady hand of the PM will get the country through the next two years. While there will be attacks on the PM for her handling of the crisis these will be unconvincing. The impact on the election will be a stronger AL that will benefit from the Rohingya influx. The population according to small survey we did early in 2017 supports the PM’s approach. There are certainly domestic groups that have views as to what should be done, but neither the military, nor the Islamic groups, nor will the international NGOs have much impact on the direction of policy. The army has its hands full with the work on the settling of the Rohingya, the Hefayet organization is doing good work in helping the incoming refugees but their demand for jihad will go nowhere. The opposition parties will make many statement and criticisms of the Government but this has little impact on the real activity that is going on. The AL politicians will persist in getting in the way of those doing the work but this hype will soon calm down. Those dealing with the situation from the PM downwards have a tremendous amount of work to do; this will dominate the political implications.

FOOD AVAILABILITY: The rice prices have stabilized with the realization that there is plenty of food and stocking up at present high prices is foolish. The amount of food required for the Rohingya is not enough to disturb the market. Total rice consumption by Rohingya would be less than 0.2 million mts per year. This can easily be managed within the availability of rice in the country and will not influence the rice prices in the national economy. Food for vulnerable groups [pregnant women, women nursing infants, under 3 years old infants] will have to be handled by NGOs.

ECONOMY: Concerns about stability, potential conflicts with Myanmar, and uncertainty will further discourage private investment. The Rohingya crisis is just one more factor to add to the concerns of the private sector. This crisis is unlikely to make a big difference. Tourism expenditures in Cox’s Bazaar will be greatly reduced over the next 12 months certainly damaging the hotel and restaurant business. There may be some respite as there is likely to be a large inflow of foreign aid workers. For Bangladesh consumers this will result in shifts of expenditures from tourism [in the Cox’s Bazaar area] to other forms of consumption. Some of this shift may be to foreign travel but our estimate is that the effect will be small. Most Bangladesh households do not choose between going to Cox’s Bazaar and going abroad. On the other hand the crisis will lead to higher government and NGO expenditures. This will increase the level of the Government deficit and act as an expansionary force on the economy. Increased foreign aid flows and foreign NGO expenditures will, along with a higher deficit, lead to more rapid economic growth. On balance the crisis will be an expansionary force on the economy. No impact on remittances or on exports should be expected. Some increase in foreign assistance expenditures will help the balance of payments but the effect will be limited.

MILITARY: Bangladesh will probably increase its military expenditures in the face of the crisis. Conflict with Myanmar is now more likely. This may be a further expansionary economic force. These greater military expenditures will also be needed to handle the Rohingya camps.

RELATION WITH INDIA: Relations with India will become frosty. If Indians throw out the 40,000 Rohingya reported to be in India there will be a lot of resentment. There will be increased anger at India for supporting Myanmar in carrying out such a nasty inhuman attack and then condoning the expulsion of Rohingya to Bangladesh. India's behavior is very troublesome for Bangladesh. The former foreign secretary of India “reminding Bangladesh” of the alleged 20 million Bangladeshis in India was a crude threat unworthy of a senior officer of the Indian Government. All that comment did was to make Bangladeshi elites angry.

RELATION WITH CHINA: Relations with China will be less effected but the result is not good for China's reputation. Although there is much hype about the money coming from China this is an illusion. In fact the real sources of financial support are the United States and Japan through the World Bank and the ADB. These flows plus the bilateral flows from Japan are in total far higher than the actual disbursed financing from India [less than \$100 million per annum], Russia [less than \$500 million] and China [less than \$750 million] combined. There is a lot of noise about Chinese project financing but in fact there is relatively little compared to the two main development banks and Japan.

V. IS THERE A SOLUTION TO THE ROHINGYA CRISIS?

The current unprecedented influx of Rohingya is pressuring the Bangladeshi government to find a solution. Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali has even suggested deporting the Rohingya to Bhashan Char, a remote and uninhabited island that regularly floods during the monsoon season. At the UN General Assembly last week, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina proposed creating 'safe zones' in Myanmar that will allow the refugees to return in a sustainable manner. Human Rights Watch quickly criticized the Prime Minister's proposal, claiming that safe zones "rarely if ever live up to their name." In an online statement, HRW said that the examples from Bosnia-Herzegovina and Sri Lanka should serve as a warning, pointing out that in both countries, large numbers of civilians were executed in safe zones. In Cox's Bazar most people hope a solution will be found quickly. If not, serious problems could arise. "We don't have enough land here to settle all these people. It will be a disaster if they have to stay for a long time," Bangladeshi teacher Nurul Absan, told DW. "I think other countries should help us. Bangladesh is a poor country. We can't handle this crisis alone."

VI. RECOMMENDATION

After the sinking of a vessel carrying some 700 refugees off the Italian island of Lampedusa in mid-April, the world's attention has turned to a crisis of even greater proportions. Since early May, up to 8,000 migrants had been stranded in six boats spread over the Andaman Sea, off the coasts of Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia. Most of the migrants are Rohingya, a Muslim minority native to the Burmese state of Rakhine and the borderlands between Bangladesh and Myanmar. Following the offer of temporary asylum by Indonesia and Malaysia, an estimated 3,600 migrants have disembarked. However, both countries stressed that they were acting on the condition of financial and operational assistance from the international community, and that those taken in would be resettled or repatriated within a year. As a preparatory step, I want to suggest that Myanmar government immediately take some measures to get back the Rohingya Refugees as well as Bangladesh government should take necessary steps to face this calamity. Some recommendations are in the following

- (a) Abolish all discriminatory local orders in Rakhine State, including those restricting movement and the rights to marriage and family life; immediately remove arbitrary requirements for travel; facilitate movement within and between townships; and promptly and clearly communicate these decisions to all relevant authorities;
- (b) Establish a road map and a time frame for lifting all restrictions on freedom of movement in Rakhine State, and where security considerations remain, ensure that restrictions are necessary, proportional and not discriminatory;
- (c) Promptly lift the curfew order in northern Rakhine State, remove arbitrary limitations on the right to freedom of assembly, and guarantee freedom of worship;
- (d) Remove all discriminatory and restrictive bureaucratic requirements for emergency medical referrals, and ensure unhindered access for all communities to government hospitals in all townships in Rakhine State;
- (e) Ensure the replacement or issuance of identity documentation for all individuals residing in Myanmar, regardless of their citizenship status; and ensure that all children are registered at birth, without discrimination, and implement promptly a process to register all unregistered children, including all Rohingya children;
- (f) Find durable solutions for all internally displaced persons in Rakhine State and conflict areas in accordance with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

- (h) Take progressive steps towards the removal of all discriminatory legal provisions, including in the Constitution, the Citizenship Law of 1982 and the four “race and religion laws”;
- (i) Prevent and sanction incitement to discrimination, hatred and violence, including through the development of a comprehensive strategy based on international human rights standards, and ensure that the Parliament takes into account the Rabat Plan of Action when discussing the “Maintenance of Religious Harmony” bill.
- (j) Undertake a comprehensive inquiry into the situation of minorities in Rakhine State and other areas in Myanmar, in consultation with all stakeholders and in accordance with international human rights law and standards with a view to recommending measures of accountability, and address the root causes of discrimination, foster reconciliation between communities and prevent recurrence of violations;
- (k) Ensure prompt, thorough, independent and impartial investigations into all alleged violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including those committed by law enforcement officers and security officers, and subsequent prosecutions; and to that end, remove any legal or legislative barriers to criminal accountability;
- (l) Ensure national laws on arrest and detention and their application are consistent with international human rights standards; and that law enforcement action is conducted in accordance with human rights standards, including the principles of legality, necessity, proportionality and non-discrimination;
- (m) Ensure that independent civilian and parliamentary oversight mechanisms over security sector actors and robust complaints mechanisms are established and operational;
- (n) Ensure investigations into allegations of forced labour, and the prosecution of those responsible
- (o) Ensure broad consultations with and the full participation of all local and affected communities in the peace process, including ethnic minorities, civil society and women;
- (p) Ensure that human rights protection is placed at the centre of the work of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre and ceasefire monitoring mechanisms.
- (q) Undertake institutional reforms to ensure respect for the rule of law;

VII. CONCLUSION

At the end this can be easily stated that Rohingyas are the prior victim of discrimination by the Government of Myanmar. Before by the Citizenship Law 1982 and now by the Constitution of the Republic of Myanmar 2008, expel them legally, by declaring them foreigners. The legal obligations both Myanmar and Bangladesh require protecting all people especially the Rohingya within their territories or subjected to their jurisdictions, regardless their status as citizens, stateless persons or refugees. Factually the Rohingyas are persecuted in Myanmar and neglected in Bangladesh. Over all they became an example of violation of human rights in global context. It is shows that human rights violations have been persistently occurring both in Bangladesh and in Myanmar. Both the countries are playing a key role in violating the human rights of a poor and stateless people. Bangladesh faces serious challenges in managing the influx of Rohingya. Contrary to most opinion our view is the impact is limited on both politics and economics. The political impact will be modest and largely improve the reputation of the AL. The economic impact will be mildly expansionary. There will be a large impact locally on Cox’s Bazaar for the next few years. There are security concerns but the security forces will contain this. Of course all will not go well. There will be serious epidemics, much human suffering, and severe psychological damage to the Rohingya children. But the Bangladesh nation will survive this challenge with honor.

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