

Ethnical Cleansing in 21st Century – Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar

PLIGHT OF ROHINGYA MUSLIM MINORITY

Gang rape, murder, burning, torture at the hands of Burmese security forces



Universal declaration of Human Rights / UN

“Recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world”

Rohingya Muslims:

The Rohingya are an ethnic group who primarily live in the Rakhine state in southwest Burma. Most Burmese governmental officials claim the Rohingya are Bengali, despite having lived in Burma for generations. This is because, unlike the rest of Burma residents, the Rohingya are majority Muslim whereas most Burmese are Buddhist. In addition, the Rohingya are not one of the 135 legally recognized ethnic groups within Burma and therefore exist in a complicated legal limbo. In 1982, the Burmese government passed a nationality law strictly defining how one is considered a citizen of Burma. Under this law, to be a

citizen one must have had ancestors living in Burma prior to 1823 (before British colonization), or be born to parents who are citizens. The Rohingya people migrated into Burma from neighboring Bangladesh sometime in the late 19th century in the midst of British colonization, making many ineligible to obtain Burmese citizenship. Lacking citizenship has denied the Rohingya of their basic human rights and made them the focus of horrific abuses. Rohingya in Burma are routinely attacked and killed by radical Buddhist militia as well as by government troops.

The Rohingya that still live in Burma have little-to-no rights, and face daily persecution at the hands of the Burmese government and Buddhist militia.

Rohingya Muslim minority has often been called the most persecuted minority in the world. The 1.1 million Rohingya Muslims squeezed precariously into the north-west state of Rakhine, in mainly Buddhist Burma, bordering majority Muslim Bangladesh, are stateless and unwanted.

Neither country will give them citizenship even though their families' roots in modern-day Rakhine, once called Arakan, can be traced back to the Eighth Century.

Since World War Two they have been treated increasingly by Burmese authorities as illegal, interloping Bengalis, facing apartheid-like conditions that deny them free movement or state education while government forces intermittently drive out and slaughter them.

Over the past year, military operations against Rohingya villages have been so intense and cruel that the minority's defenders have warned of an unfolding genocide.

The United Nations has reported that the army may have committed ethnic cleansing.

The inhumane treatment of the Rohingyas has tarnished the image of Myanmar's civilian leader and noble peace prize laureate Aung San Su Kyi once a famously unflinching defender of human rights and darling of the West.

She now faces international fury, particularly from Muslim nations, for failing to stand up to armed forces chief General Min Aung Hlaing, whose soldiers are accused of rape, murder, arson, and of ripping Rohingya babies from their mothers' arms and throwing them into rivers and fire.

Ms Suu Kyi has publicly stuck to the military's line that the Rohingya are illegally squatting on the Burmese territory, The latest military crackdown,

which began on August 25, caused almost 90,000 Rohingyas to flee under fire to squalid, overflowing relief camps across the Bangladeshi border in just two weeks.

Officially close to 400 people had died by early September, but human rights activists claim to have confirmation of at least 1,000 deaths and believe the figure is much higher.

The death toll will inevitably rise after Burma, also known as Myanmar, blocked UN agencies from delivering vital food, water and medicine supplies to 250,000 Rakhine residents desperately in need.

Ongoing persecution of the Rohingya has inevitably led to an armed, if disorganised, resistance. In fact they have been pushed to breaking point by relentless oppression by Burma's Army.

A report released in early September by the Burma Human Rights Network documents the rise of systematic abuses against Burmese Muslims since 2012, including the creation of "Muslim-free zones", denial of ID cards, and the banning of Islamic holidays.

The oppression has been mirrored by an upsurge of ultra-nationalist Buddhist groups who encourage an anti-Muslim rhetoric.

Pope Francis calls for "full rights" for Rohingya Muslims

ARSA has so far been described as a rag-tag collection of small groups armed with knives, sticks and some basic IEDs, rather than a robust military force or mass mobilisation.

But rising anger in the Muslim world about the plight of the Rohingya has compounded fears of homegrown militancy as well as support from international jihadists.

Al Qaeda's offshoot in Yemen has already called for retaliatory attacks against Myanmar, while the Afghan Taliban called on Muslims to "use their abilities to help Burma's oppressed Muslims."

Matthew Smith, director of Fortify Rights, a human rights group working with Rohingya refugees, said there was a danger of escalation.

"There is certainly a risk that international extremist organisations will seek to be involved in northern Rakhine state," he said. "The best way to prevent this

from escalating is to protect the rights of the civilian population. Myanmar is doing the exact opposite.”

To stop this ongoing genocide the following measures should be taken immediately:

- 1- Myanmar/Burma must immediately stop this ongoing genocide of the Rohingya Muslim minority.
- 2- Myanmar/Burmese government should not let this ongoing violence against Rohingya Muslim minority escalate.
- 3- International community must legitimize and support Rohingya Muslim minority's right to Burma's citizenship.
- 4- Myanmar / Burmese authorities must give UN observers and journalists free access to the troubled areas in Myanmar
- 5- Western democracies must stop with their indifferent attitude towards excessive abuses and violation of human rights in Burma by Burmese security forces.
- 6- It is high time that the international community intervenes by offering serious mediation to resolve Rohingya Muslim's right to Burmese citizenship.
- 7- Can UNHR afford to sit and see this ongoing genocide of Rohingya Muslim minority including killings of babies and children. They should act now.
- 8- Who shall help Rohingya? Is under given Hadith relevant to OIC? If yes, they should act now.

“The Muslims are like a single body. If the eye is afflicted, then the whole body is afflicted. If the head is afflicted, then the whole body is afflicted.”

(Source: Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 2586, Grade: [Sahih](#) (authentic) according to Muslim)

Let's make sad suffering and outcry of Rohingya known to the world conscience

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