



ARAKAN

Arakan Rohingya National Organisation (ARNO)



Photo courtesy: Free Malaysia Today



- **FORGOTTEN GENERATION: HOW GLOBAL INACTION IS PUSHING ROHINGYA YOUTH INTO DARKNESS**
- **IN CONVERSATION WITH DR. RONAN LEE**
- **UNDERSTANDING THE INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIVE MECHANISM FOR MYANMAR**

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Editorial

Forgotten Generation:

How Global Inaction is Pushing Rohingya Youth into Darkness



The Rohingya people, a Muslim minority primarily from Myanmar’s Rakhine state, have endured decades of discrimination, statelessness, and violence. The brutal military crackdown in 2017, which the United Nations labeled a textbook example of ethnic cleansing, forced hundreds of thousands to flee to neighboring Bangladesh. Today, around one million Rohingya live in refugee camps in Bangladesh, particularly in the densely packed camps of Cox’s Bazar, with the youth and children making up a significant portion of this population. Tragically, this vulnerable demographic has received little meaningful attention from the regional and international communities, leaving them facing a dark and uncertain future.

The Generational Crisis: A Youth Forgotten

Rohingya youth and children, growing up in an environment shaped by conflict, displacement, and deprivation, are at the heart of this humanitarian crisis. More than half of the Rohingya population in the camps is under the age of 18, and their daily reality is one of scarcity — scarce education, scarce resources, and scarce opportunities. Despite their significant numbers, the international and regional response to the crisis has often focused on the broader humanitarian needs like shelter and food, sidelining the specific needs of the youth. This neglect is creating a "lost generation," with children who have little chance to build meaningful lives beyond the refugee camps.

Many Rohingya children have no access to formal education, and even the informal learning centers in the camps lack proper curricula, trained teachers, and sufficient resources. In some cases, schooling is provided only until the age of 14, leaving older teens with no educational or vocational pathways. This has created a sense of aimlessness and frustration among the youth, many of whom spend their days idle and disconnected from any sense of purpose.



Photo courtesy: Free Malaysia Today

The Failure of Regional Actors

The regional response to the Rohingya crisis has been far from adequate. While Bangladesh has borne the brunt of the refugee influx, it is overburdened, with little regional cooperation or support from other Southeast Asian nations. Countries like Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand, where Rohingya refugees have sought asylum, have been reluctant to formally integrate them or provide long-term solutions. Rohingya refugees in these countries often face detention, exploitation, and marginalization, particularly the youth who are more vulnerable to trafficking and abuse. Meanwhile, Myanmar, the country from which the Rohingya fled, has failed to acknowledge their plight or make any meaningful efforts towards repatriation under safe conditions. This lack of regional solidarity has not only exacerbated the crisis but has also sent a message to the Rohingya youth that their future is unimportant.

International Community's Insufficient Commitment

The international community, despite early attention to the Rohingya crisis, has seen its focus wane over the years. International agencies like the United Nations, humanitarian organizations, and foreign governments provided immediate humanitarian aid in the aftermath of the 2017 crisis, but sustainable solutions for the future of Rohingya children and youth have been lacking. Educational programs in the camps are underfunded, and mental health support, which is critically needed for children who have witnessed horrific violence and now live in traumatic conditions, is minimal. Vocational training programs, essential for helping older youth transition into adulthood, are scarce, further compounding the sense of hopelessness many feel.



The international community has also failed to put sufficient pressure on Myanmar to create conditions conducive to voluntary repatriation, such as granting the Rohingya full citizenship and ensuring their safety. Instead, discussions around the Rohingya crisis have largely remained in the diplomatic realm, with few tangible actions or resources aimed at improving the long-term prospects of the displaced Rohingya, especially the youth.

The Dark Path Ahead: Consequences of Inaction

The lack of attention from both regional and international actors has grave consequences for Rohingya youth and children. Without access to education, mental health support, and economic opportunities, many young Rohingya find themselves trapped in cycles of poverty and despair. This sense of hopelessness can drive them towards risky or dangerous alternatives, including crime, drug trafficking, human trafficking, or even radicalization by extremist groups.

In the camps, there are reports of young boys and girls being drawn into illicit activities as a means of survival. Gangs, traffickers, and extremist networks often target vulnerable youth, offering them a way out of their current conditions, even if it means further violence or exploitation. The camps themselves are becoming increasingly unsafe, with rising incidents of criminal activities and clashes between factions. Moreover, without proper psychological support, many Rohingya children are growing up with unaddressed trauma. This not only affects their personal development but also poses long-term risks for their emotional and mental well-being, potentially creating a generation marked by deep scars of violence and abandonment.

What Needs to Be Done: The Path to Hope

To avert a dark future for Rohingya youth, both regional and international communities need to act decisively and urgently.

Prioritizing Education and Vocational Training: The first step is to prioritize education. The international community must increase funding for educational programs in the camps and advocate for formal education that is recognized regionally, ensuring that Rohingya youth can have a future beyond the refugee settlements. Vocational training should also be expanded, providing older youth with practical skills that can help them find employment, whether in Bangladesh or in third countries.

Mental Health and Trauma Support: Given the deep trauma experienced by many Rohingya children and youth, robust mental health programs must be implemented. This involves training counselors who can provide support in the camps and setting up safe spaces where youth can process their emotions and receive guidance on navigating the complex realities of refugee life.

Economic Opportunities and Legal Rights: Regional actors, including Bangladesh, India and Southeast Asian nations, must work together to create pathways for economic integration of the Rohingya, particularly the youth. Legal recognition, employment opportunities, and the ability to contribute to society are critical to preventing young people from falling into dangerous or exploitative situations.

Political Pressure on Myanmar: Finally, the international community must maintain pressure on Myanmar to recognize the rights of the Rohingya and create conditions for their safe and voluntary return. Without addressing the root causes of their displacement, Rohingya youth will remain stateless and marginalized, with no viable future.

Conclusion

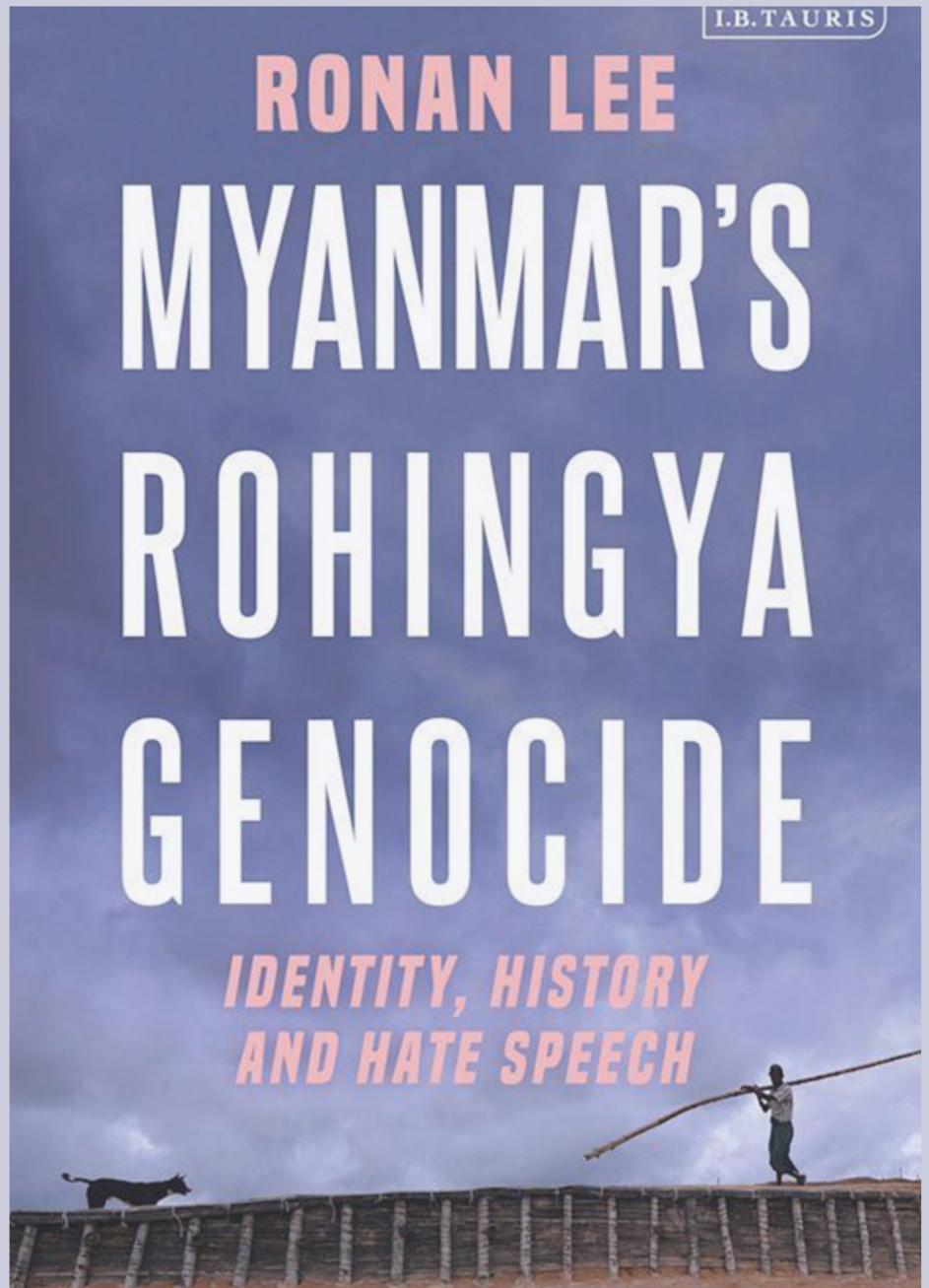
The neglect of Rohingya youth and children by the regional and international community is creating a generation on the brink of despair. If the global response continues to sideline their needs, this young people risk being driven towards dark and dangerous paths, with severe consequences not only for the Rohingya but for the stability of the region as a whole. The time to act is now. Only through sustained commitment, attention, and resources can we hope to give Rohingya youth a future of dignity, security, and opportunity — one that leads not to darkness, but to hope.



IN CONVERSATION

WITH

DR. RONAN LEE



Dr Ronan Lee is a Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellow at Loughborough University where his work focusses on Asian politics, the Rohingya, Myanmar, genocide, hate speech and migration. Dr Lee's book "Myanmar's Rohingya Genocide: Identity, History and Hate Speech" was published by Bloomsbury in 2021 and he was awarded the 2021 Early Career Emerging Scholar Prize by the International Association of Genocide Scholars. He serves as an Executive Committee member of the Association of Southeast Asian Studies. Ronan has a professional background in politics, media, and public policy. He was formerly a Queensland State Member of Parliament and served on the frontbench as a Parliamentary Secretary in portfolios including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Justice, Main Roads and Local Government. He has also worked as a senior government advisor, and as an election strategist and campaign manager.

Dr Lee's most recent book is Myanmar's Rohingya Genocide (Bloomsbury 2021). ARNO asked him some questions about his book and what motivated him to write about the Rohingya genocide.

1. What motivated you to write and examine the Rohingya genocide?

The motivation to focus my scholarship on the experience of the Rohingya arose during my extensive travels in Myanmar during 2010. I found myself speaking with many people who were determined to remove the Tatmadaw from political influence in the country but seemed utterly blinded to the racism, Islamophobia and apartheid system that underpinned military-rule. I wanted to bring more attention to the plight of the Rohingya community because I feared they were being forgotten both by people within Myanmar and by the international community.

2. What new information did you learn about the Rohingya people that you did not know before through your research and interviews?

I learned a lot about the Rohingya's lived experience of genocide through my interviews in the camps. Camp residents described how their lives in Myanmar had been characterised by government-imposed restrictions on virtually every aspect of life. Most consistently raised as a serious concern was the restrictions on access to education and learning opportunities for children and young people. Many of the people I spoke with in the camps described Myanmar's limits on access to education for Rohingya as a key marker of the genocide against the Rohingya community. This highlighted for me the importance of improving access to education and learning opportunities for the Rohingya community.

3. What was it like for you to visit Rohingya in the camps and interact with Rohingya community diaspora members to write your book?

It was a real privilege that Rohingya camp residents were prepared to share their time with me. I hope that I have been able to do justice to the experiences they shared. And I hope that by bringing Rohingya experiences to a wider audience this has helped contribute to improving the long-term prospects of the community. From the start of my academic work, my aim has been to bring Rohingya experiences to a wider audience by sharing the Rohingya's own words. In the camps, I was impressed by residents' determination to rebuild not only their own lives but the life of their community – they rightly understood their personal situation was a direct consequence of an attack on their community as a group and they understood the need to address this by defending their community, its values and traditions. I think this underpins the Rohingya community's strong commitment to education and learning. These are crucial to the Rohingya community's ability to endure.

4. Why do you think the Rohingya situation has gone unanswered by the international community for so long (prior to the events of 2017)?

The key reason for the lack of international interest in solving the Rohingya's crisis today is the same reason Rohingya calls for help were largely unanswered before 2017 – it is about a lack of political will. The basis for this situation was deliberately created by the Myanmar government over the course of many years – by preventing access to Rohingya communities it became difficult for international media to report what was going on. And in the absence of news reports, international political figures were too easily distracted by other higher-profile events. Over time, media, academics and international political figures lacked first-hand experience of the Rohingya's situation so that when the 2017 crisis happened, too few people internationally had the expertise to quickly understand what was going on. Instead, key international players turned to the people they did know in Myanmar and that was Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD. This was a disaster for the Rohingya community. That's why I believe it is crucial to make sure the Rohingya's situation is not allowed to drop out of the attention of the international media and the attention of the United Nations.

5. What tips do you have for budding scholars and researchers within the Rohingya community who are interested in documenting and furthering conversations about the Rohingya genocide?

I have three pieces of advice for budding Rohingya scholars: the first is to always place the voice of the Rohingya community at the forefront of their work. Secondly, it is important to regard scholarship as a collective activity so it is important that scholars collaborate and support each other. And thirdly, I believe it is important to avoid limiting ourselves in terms of how we present our work. Vibrant scholarship needs diversity, so if poetry best helps you to share stories and experiences, then write poetry. If art, photography or song help, then create artworks or sing.

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Understanding the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar



Independent Investigative
Mechanism for Myanmar

The Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM or Mechanism) was established by the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2018. The purpose of the IIMM is to collect, preserve, and analyze evidence and also prepare and share case files with courts anywhere in the world who are using that information to prosecute perpetrators. The IIMM looks at crimes which have taken place in Myanmar since 2011.

The Leader of the Mechanism is Nicholas Koumjian, who is a former prosecutor in the United States. In June 2024 the IIMM provided an update that the work of the Mechanism has been increasing. It is important to keep in mind that the IIMM only helps with cases that are already opened. It does not open new cases. The IIMM has helped with the following cases so far:

In 2022 the Myanmar Accountability Project filed a complaint with the Prosecutor in Turkey against the junta for crimes committed after the coup.

In 2023 victims filed a complaint in the Philippines against the junta for war crimes in the Chin State.

In 2023 several victims from Myanmar, including Rohingya victims, filed a complaint against the junta with the German Prosecutor. Germany decided not to prosecute the case.

The International Criminal Court case continues its investigation into the situation in Bangladesh/Myanmar.

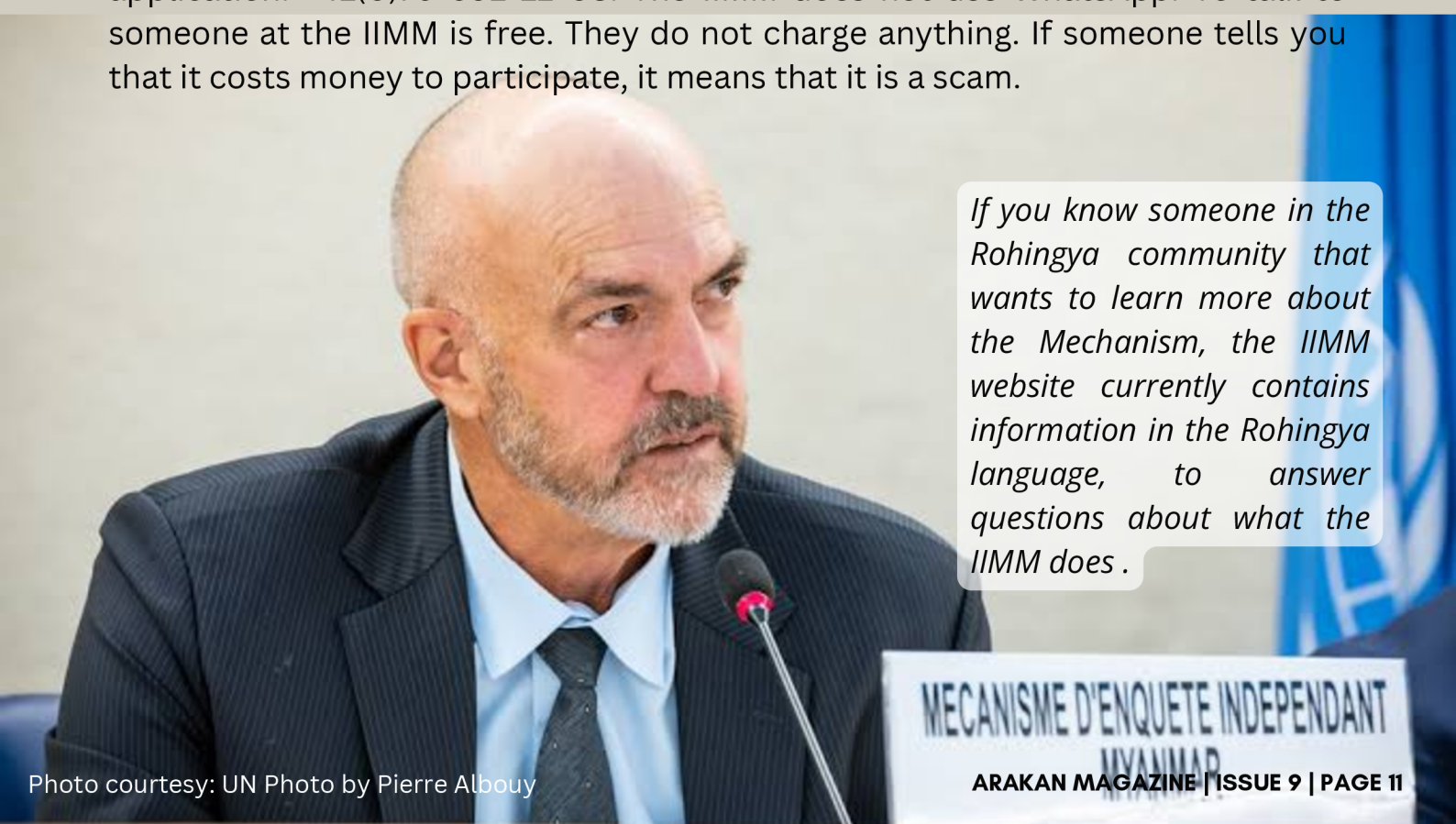
The United Kingdom Counter Terrorism Command has opened up investigations following the ones in the International Criminal Court. They are currently identifying witnesses and examining crimes.

The International Court of Justice case continues to move forward and focuses on whether or not Myanmar has committed a breach of the Genocide Convention.

The Rohingya community can be a vital part of the success of the Mechanism and it is safe to participate. The Mechanism does collect and look at evidence which is publicly available, meaning the material that is posted online: photos, videos, audio recordings and official news. However, the Mechanism uses this material to find more information in order to talk to witnesses, victims, and survivors or it can use the online material to support information that it already has.

It is important for the Rohingya community to provide information directly to the IIMM, particularly information starting from 2011. This could potentially open new cases. It is also important that members of the Rohingya community share information of anything which has recently happened. The information can be about any potential perpetrator of a crime, so it is not limited only to the junta. Also, the IIMM can take evidence regarding a range of human rights violations. You do not need to determine what violations have taken place or know the name of the exact crime. The IIMM will do that analysis on their own.

It is never too late to share the information you may have. It is important to talk to an investigator at the IIMM, and there is staff that can speak in the Rohingya language. You can submit confidential information to the Mechanism: contact@myanmar-mechanism.org or you can submit information via the Signal application: +41(0)76 691 12 08. The IIMM does not use WhatsApp. To talk to someone at the IIMM is free. They do not charge anything. If someone tells you that it costs money to participate, it means that it is a scam.



If you know someone in the Rohingya community that wants to learn more about the Mechanism, the IIMM website currently contains information in the Rohingya language, to answer questions about what the IIMM does .

Rohingya Organisations Joint Statement on Naf River Massacre

August 23, 2024

We, the undersigned Rohingya organisations, have been working to establish the facts of the 'Naf River Massacre' that occurred in Maungdaw, Rakhine state, on 5th August 2024. Based on interviews and documentation of first-hand accounts by survivors and eyewitnesses, so far we have established the following.

On 5th August 2024, an estimated number of at least 200 Rohingya civilians were killed in drone and artillery attacks in Maungdaw township, Rakhine State, while seeking shelter on the banks of the Naf River, which borders Bangladesh. Most of the victims of the attacks – “the Naf River Massacre” – were women and children. They had been forced to flee to the Naf River from Maungdaw town, where the Arakan Army (AA) had advanced, the Burmese military had sent reinforcements, and both parties engaged in intensifying attacks. With nowhere to go, the civilians had no choice but to cross the river to Bangladesh.

Numerous eyewitnesses told us that the drones and artillery had been launched from the areas under the control of the AA. The Naf River Massacre follows a pattern of similar drone strikes by the AA on urban wards of Maungdaw town and its surrounding Rohingya villages in recent weeks, killing dozens of Rohingya civilians daily. It also follows ground reports indicating that Rohingya civilians are being strategically targeted by the AA and the Myanmar military with atrocities, in addition to being indiscriminately caught in the crossfire of their armed conflict.

Attacking thousands of civilians, including women and children, is an act that is in violation of international humanitarian law and may constitute a war crime and crime against humanity.

At the same time, the choice of weaponry that was used to conduct the Naf River Massacre should challenge whether it was “indiscriminately” conducted. Drones are a type of unmanned aerial vehicle built to ensure heightened control and precision of their attacks. Regardless of their sophistication, drones allow for their operators to identify their target and, if necessary, adjust their position to prevent unnecessary attacks, prior to their launch. Moreover, it is important to note that the use of drones has been a hallmark of the AA’s operations in Rakhine State for the past months, disproportionately resulting in a wholly catastrophic and preventable loss of life of Rohingya civilians. In Maungdaw township, some Burmese military soldiers and members of these militia groups have been reported as hiding in the township’s urban areas, mostly concentrated in nearby Border Guard Police battalion bases: far from the banks of the Naf River. The AA and its leadership’s pattern of such attacks, including their use of hate speech against Rohingya, further point to the presence of an intent to target the Rohingya ethnic and religious minority in Rakhine State. Combined, these findings strengthen our conviction that the AA knew what and where their targets were.

Context for the Naf River Massacre

This latest attack follows a pattern of similar drone strikes by the Arakan Army on urban wards of Maungdaw town and Rohingya villages in recent weeks, killing several Rohingya civilians. As the Arakan Army advanced towards Maungdaw town, the Myanmar military sent reinforcements to urban areas. In fear of intensifying attacks, and with nowhere else to go, Rohingya civilians fled to the banks of the Naf River. The victims of the 5th of August attacks were trying to find a way to cross the river to relative safety in Bangladesh when they were brutally killed by the Arakan Army.

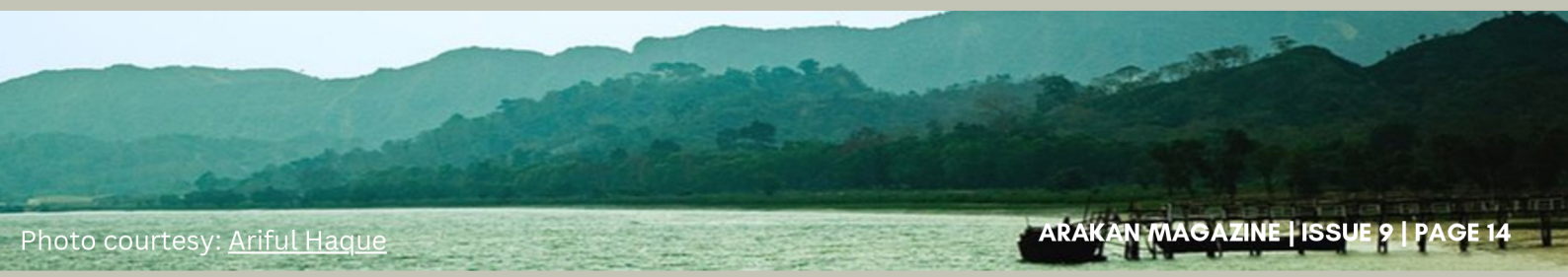
Rohingya civilians in Maungdaw township are trapped by the intense fighting between the Arakan Army and Myanmar military. They are in urgent need of international protection and humanitarian assistance.

The Arakan Army set its sights on seizing Maungdaw township after a brutal campaign for control of neighbouring Buthidaung, which ended on 18th May. During this campaign the Arakan Army carried out arson attacks on Rohingya homes and villages and killed more than 2,000 Rohingyas, as well as other gross human rights violations against Rohingya civilians. The Arakan Army sought to blame airstrikes carried out by the Myanmar military for the fires, a claim which has been widely contested. Again, the Arakan Army has denied responsibility for the 5th of August attack.

For decades, Rohingya have already been suffering from a multitude of different forms of violence and oppression from the Myanmar military. In recent months, the Myanmar military has been using their proxy criminal gangs, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), Arakan Rohingya Army (ARA), and Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO) to abduct Rohingya refugees from the camps in Bangladesh to Maungdaw to fight alongside the Myanmar military. These are criminal gangs, and we again denounce these groups and declare they do not represent or act on behalf of Rohingya communities. We condemn their actions in the strongest possible terms.

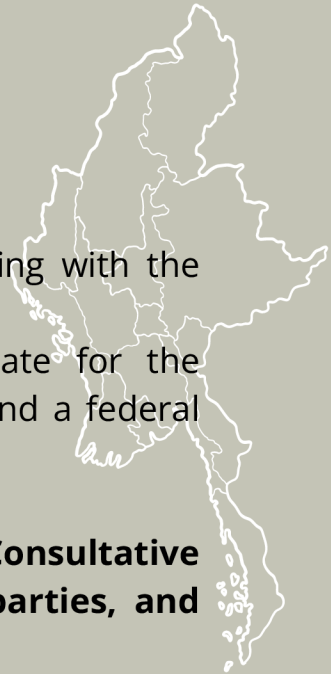
Moving forward, we demand the Arakan Army to immediately:

- Halt all human rights violations and atrocities against Rohingya and other ethnic and religious groups in Arakan/Rakhine.
- Refrain from indiscriminate and targeted attacks against the Rohingya civilian population. End repeatedly using hate speech based on religion and race such as “Bengali terrorist, Extremist Muslim, Muslim terrorist” to describe the Rohingya, as well as portraying all Rohingya as collaborating with the military junta. This hate speech fuels religious conflict and increasing hatred among the public.
- Take full responsibility and allow a UN-led independent investigation into these massacres access to Rakhine to establish the facts and to hold perpetrators to account.
- Develop effective measures to prevent further violations and atrocities against Rohingya and other minorities in Arakan/Rakhine,
- Develop policy and enforcement to ensure troops comply with the Geneva Conventions, international law, and international human rights standards to protect civilians regardless of their ethnicity and religion during conflict.
- Engage with the international community and provide immediate and unimpeded humanitarian access to all affected areas, including Maungdaw and Buthidaung.
- Engage in dialogue with Rohingya and other ethnic and religious community leaders in Arakan/Rakhine State with the goal of establishing a peaceful and prosperous Arakan/Rakhine State that guarantees inclusivity, equality and rights for all, including by establishing an inclusive democratic administration based on equal, full and meaningful participation of all ethnic and religious minorities in Arakan/Rakhine State.



We call on Rohingya communities to:

- Continue to reject criminal gangs and individuals collaborating with the Myanmar military.
- Work with all religious and ethnic groups in Rakhine State for the establishment of a peaceful and prosperous Rakhine State and a federal democratic union in Myanmar.



We urge the National Unity Government, National Unity Consultative Council, Spring Revolution's revolutionary forces, political parties, and civil society of Myanmar (Burma) to:

- Call on the Arakan Army to respect human rights for all, end human rights violations against Rohingya and other ethnic and religious minorities in Arakan/Rakhine, and abide by international law.
- Implement The Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence.

We appeal to the Bangladeshi Government to:

- Urgently provide temporary shelter, food, medicine, and other essential services to the newly arrived refugees. Reports indicate that thousands of Rohingya attempting to cross the Naf River were kidnapped by local Bangladeshi gangs and taken to Laal Island, where they are being subjected to extortion and harassment. These vulnerable individuals must be rescued and provided with immediate protection. Furthermore, hundreds of Rohingya who have already crossed into Bangladesh are now in the custody of Bangladeshi authorities.
- Establish an emergency humanitarian corridor to allow the delivery of humanitarian aid from Bangladesh into areas of Rakhine State under the control of the Arakan Army.

We call on the International Community to:

- Convene a UN Security Council emergency meeting to discuss steps that can be taken against the Myanmar military, Arakan Army and others who are violating the provisional measures to prevent ongoing genocide of the Rohingya, which were ordered by the International Court of Justice.



- Exert maximum pressure on the Arakan Army and the Myanmar military to immediately cease all hostilities against civilians, including by taking a principled stance and publicly condemning the Arakan Army when it commits atrocities such as the Naf River Massacre. The protection of civilians must be the highest priority.
- Consider imposing sanctions on the Arakan Army and its leadership should it continue to commit severe and systematic human rights violations against the Rohingya.
- Support Bangladesh in its effort to rescue those fleeing from recent fighting and violence in Rakhine State and provide protection and humanitarian assistance, including food, medicine and shelter to ensure the rights and dignity of these refugees are upheld.
- Provide immediate protection, healthcare, and mental health and psychosocial support to women, children, and elderly persons affected by the recent attacks, including sexual and gender-based violence, in Rakhine State.
- Work with the Government of Bangladesh on the establishment of an emergency humanitarian corridor from Bangladesh into areas of Rakhine State under the control of the Arakan Army.
- Support the National Unity Government, ethnic resistance organisations, religious bodies, political parties and civil society in and from Myanmar in their efforts to dismantle the Myanmar military and establish a federal democratic union and to implement The Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence.



Signatories: Rohingya Organisations

- Arakan Rohingya Development Association – Australia
- Arakan Rohingya National Organisation (ARNO)
- Arakan Rohingya Union (ARU)
- Australian Burmese Rohingya Organization (ABRO)
- British Rohingya Community UK
- Burmese Rohingya Association in Japan (BRAJ)
- Burmese Rohingya Association of North America (BRANA)
- Burmese Rohingya Association in Queensland- Australia (BRAQA)
- Burmese Rohingya Community in Denmark (BRCD)
- Burmese Rohingya Community Netherlands (BRCNL)
- Burmese Rohingya Organisation UK (BROUK)
- Burmese Rohingya Community of Georgia, Atlanta (BRCG)
- Burmese Rohingya Welfare Organization (BRWO) New Zealand
- Canadian Burmese Rohingya Organisation
- European Rohingya Council (ERC)
- Free Rohingya Coalition (FRC)
- Global Rohingya Students' Union (GRSU)
- Los Angeles Rohingya Association
- Rohingya Action Ireland
- Rohingya Association of Canada
- Rohingya Centre Canada
- Rohingya Community in Japan (RCJ)
- Rohingya Community in Norway (RCN)
- Rohingya Human Rights Initiative
- Rohingya National League (RNL)
- Rohingya Women Development Network-RWDN
- RW Welfare Society (RWWS)
- Swedish Rohingya Association (SRA)



Stand in solidarity with the Rohingya people and support the protection, justice, and accountability of civilians by the following 115 organisations: (59) listed below and (56) that have chosen not to disclose their names due to the security situation.

- Action Committee for Democracy Development (ACDD, Coalition of 12 Grassroots Network)
- Ah Nah Podcast – conversations with Myanmar
- ALTSEAN-Burma
- Asia Democracy Network (ADN)
- Asia-Pacific Solidarity Coalition (APSOC)
- Association of Human rights watch and documentation (Bago)
- Ayeyarwaddy West Development Organisation AWDO (Magway)
- Ayeyarwaddy West Development Organisation AWDO (Nagphe)
- Ayeyarwaddy Youth Network
- Blood Money Campaign
- Burma Action Ireland
- Burma Campaign UK
- Burma Civil War Museum (BCM)
- Burma Human Rights Network
- Burma Support
- Chin Human Rights Organization
- Civil Rights Defenders
- CRPH & NUG Supporters Ireland
- CRPH Funding Ireland
- Defend Myanmar Democracy
- Democracy Movement Strike Committee (Dawei)
- ETOs Watch Coalition
- Friends Against Dictatorship (FAD)
- From Singapore to Myanmar (FS2M)
- Future Thanlwin
- Generation Wave (GW)
- Human Rights Foundation of Monland
- Info Birmanie
- Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID)
- Justice for Myanmar
- Justice Movement for Community-Innlay
- Karen Peace Support Network (KPSN)
- Kyauktada Strike Committee (KSC)
- Legal Aid for Human Rights
- MATA စစ်ကိုင်းတိုင်း
- Milk Tea Alliance Thailand
- Min Hla Farmers Group
- Minbu Farmers Group
- Minority Affairs Institute (MAI Myanmar)
- Myanmar Campaign Network
- Myanmar Cultural Research Society (MCRS)
- MyaYar Knowledge Tree (CBO)
- New Power Generation
- Olive Organization
- Progressive Voice
- Pwintphyu Development Organisation
- Save and Care Organization for Ethnic Women at Border Areas (SCOEWBA)
- Sisters2sisters
- Sitt Nyein Pann Foundation
- U.S. Campaign for Burma
- Volunteers in Myanmar
- Women’s Peace Network
- Yangon Deaf Group
- Yangon Medical Network
- ဒို့မြေကွန်ရက် (LIOH)
- ပွင့်ဖြူလယ်ယာမြေကွန်ရက်
- မုန်တိုင်းကြားကသက်တံများ
- သင့်မြတ်လုံသူများ
- အညာလွင်ပြင်ရပ်ဝန်း

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Landslide Tragedy Strikes Rohingya Refugee Camp:

THREE FAMILY MEMBERS KILLED IN CAMP 14

RK News Desk Published September 13, 2024



In the midst of heavy monsoon rains, a catastrophic landslide occurred in Camp 14, Hakim Para, Block E-2, devastating the lives of one family. The camp, which houses thousands of Rohingya refugees, was once again faced with the cruel aftermath of nature's fury. This latest incident claimed the lives of three members from the family of Majhi Kobir Ahmad.

As the skies opened up, relentless rainfall triggered a landslide that crushed three houses to the ground. With the community rushing to rescue those trapped under the muddy debris, it was soon discovered that three members of Majhi Kobir's family had perished. The family, whose FCN number is 225652, consisted of five members.

The victims of this tragic event are:

- **Abdur Rohim**
- **Abdul Hafez**
- **Abdul Wahad**

Amidst the panic and grief, images from the scene depict the heart-wrenching effort of the community as they scramble through the rain-soaked mud, umbrellas in hand, trying to rescue and recover those buried. The fragile bamboo structures that once sheltered the family now lie in ruins, symbolic of the precarious living conditions the refugees endure every day.



Photo courtesy: RK Desk

As people gathered around to mourn, questions about safety and preparedness in the refugee camps continue to loom. The family, like so many others, had been surviving in the overcrowded and vulnerable conditions of the camp, which has little protection against natural disasters.

This tragedy serves as a harsh reminder of the fragile existence faced by the Rohingya community in the refugee camps, where danger is not only from displacement but also from the unpredictable wrath of nature.



Yunus's Global Influence Could Help Secure Western Support for Rohingya Refugees, Says Expert



Photo courtesy: Ralf Lotys

RK News Desk Published September 12, 2024

Chief Adviser of Bangladesh, Muhammad Yunus, is being seen as a potential game-changer in the international efforts to address the Rohingya refugee crisis. His global prominence and connections could persuade Western governments to host refugees, according to Michael Kugelman, a leading expert on South Asian affairs.

Yunus, who is expected to attend the United Nations General Assembly meetings in New York this month, has a significant opportunity to appeal for global support. His platform at the UN, combined with meetings on the sidelines, could bring much-needed attention to the plight of Rohingya refugees, Kugelman wrote in the Foreign Policy's South Asia Brief.

The task is not without challenges. "The scale of the Rohingya crisis, combined with other global humanitarian priorities, might make it difficult for Yunus to gain immediate commitments from Western governments," Kugelman explained. However, the stakes are extraordinarily high for the Rohingya community and for Bangladesh itself.

Rohingya refugees, currently living in overcrowded camps in Bangladesh, are facing severe hardships. They depend entirely on humanitarian aid for survival. Since 2020, thousands have been relocated by Dhaka to a remote and flood-prone island, raising concerns about their safety and well-being. Moreover, as Bangladesh does not provide them with citizenship, many Rohingya refugees are deprived of access to education and basic services.

This week, Yunus called for an expedited third-country resettlement of Rohingya refugees, a step seen as critical to easing the burden on Bangladesh, which hosts over 1.2 million refugees, many of whom fled military violence in Myanmar in 2017. The situation has become more urgent in recent months, with approximately 8,000 more Rohingya refugees crossing the border into Bangladesh due to intensifying conflict in Myanmar.

Yunus, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, has garnered international respect through his work in microfinance and his long-standing ties with Western governments. Kugelman suggests that these relationships position him to make strong appeals for increased humanitarian aid to support Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

However, while the international community has already provided considerable support, including \$2.4 billion from the U.S. since 2017, there is an urgent need for sustained aid. The Hasina government's \$852 million appeal for assistance has been largely underfunded, according to the United Nations.

The real challenge lies in finding third-country resettlement options for the Rohingya. While the former Hasina government aimed to repatriate some Rohingya refugees back to Myanmar, often involuntarily, Yunus's interim government is taking a different approach. Given the worsening conflict in Myanmar, resettlement is now the preferred solution.

However, this path is fraught with obstacles. Few countries have so far agreed to host Rohingya refugees, and the number of Rohingya being resettled outside of Bangladesh remains low. While nations like India, Malaysia, and Thailand host a combined total of 345,000 Rohingya refugees, much more international support is needed.

The urgency is further highlighted by the dangerous sea routes that many Rohingya refugees take to escape to Southeast Asia, often resulting in deadly voyages or violent opposition upon arrival.

Kugelman stressed that the long-term consequences for Bangladesh of hosting such a large refugee population include increasing economic strain and potential radicalization risks. For these reasons, international intervention and support are crucial.

Ultimately, the Rohingya community may find a powerful advocate in Yunus, whose influence on the global stage could open doors to new possibilities. Kugelman concluded that Yunus, with his credibility and international reputation, is well-suited to take on the challenge of securing international support for the Rohingya, if he chooses to do so.



UNITED YOUTH MOVEMENT BANGLADESH SOVEREIGNTY, HUMANITY, AND JUSTICE

September 20, 2024

Human Chain Protest Against the Ongoing Rohingya Genocide Led by the Arakan Army

On Friday, at 3 PM in front of the National Press Club in Dhaka, the United Youth Movement Bangladesh organized a human chain protest, calling for an end to the ongoing genocide of Rohingya people in Myanmar's Arakan State, led by the terrorist Arakan Army. The protest also demanded the safe repatriation of Rohingya refugees currently sheltered in Bangladesh. The Arakan Army, which threatens Bangladesh's sovereignty, has been perpetuating violence and persecution against the Rohingya, forcing them to flee to the neighboring countries.

The primary aim of this protest was to raise public awareness about the ongoing genocide and to rally the people of Bangladesh against the Arakan Army's hostile activities. The leaders of the United Youth Movement Bangladesh highlighted the severe atrocities committed by this terrorist organization and its devastating impact on the Rohingya people. Speakers at the event emphasized the continued violence by the Arakan Army has driven thousands of Rohingya to seek refuge in Bangladesh, exacerbating the ongoing refugee crisis and creating additional challenges for the country.

The protest saw active participation from citizens of various backgrounds, demonstrating widespread solidarity with the Rohingya cause. The United Youth Movement Bangladesh reiterated their call for urgent international intervention, urging the global community to take decisive steps towards finding a permanent solution to this humanitarian crisis.

Representatives from both print and electronic media were present to cover the event, interviewing the organization's leaders about their stance on the Rohingya issue and their future plans. In these interviews, the leadership stressed the necessity of immediate and safe repatriation for the Rohingya people and called for the international community to take stronger actions against the Arakan Army. They also underlined the importance of protecting Bangladesh's sovereignty in the face of these ongoing challenges. Moreover, the speakers highlighted the need for nationwide efforts to increase social awareness and address the refugee situation more effectively.

The human chain protest received significant media coverage and has played a crucial role in raising public awareness across Bangladesh about the plight of the Rohingya and the need for collective action. The United Youth Movement Bangladesh announced that further programs will be organized in the future to maintain momentum on this issue, both at the national and international levels, to contribute to resolving the crisis.

Md. Daif Salemoon
President
United Youth Movement Bangladesh



Photo courtesy: UN Women

About ARNO

The Arakan Rohingya National Organisation (ARNO) emerged in 1998 as a broad-based organisation of the Rohingya people with a pledge to promote 'Rohingya unity' and to realise the hopes and aspirations of the Rohingya people.

www.rohingya.org

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