

<b>Forum:</b>	Human Right Council
<b>Issue:</b>	Combatting the violation of human rights against Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar
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## Introduction

Myanmar is a sovereign state located in Southeast Asia and officially known as the Republic of the United of Myanmar. In 1948 it was formally declared as an independence democratic union, under the Burma Socialist Program Party followed by a coup d'état in 1962. Since 1948, reports on the violation of human rights in Myanmar have been constantly published, one of the most critical issues has been violence against the Rohingya Muslims. The Rohingya people have been constantly abused by the Burmese regime, and such violation of human rights was not acknowledged by the Burmese regime. Since 2011 there have been numerous deaths of Rohingya people killed by Myanmar's military force under the order of the government. Officially there has been more than 280 death of the Rohingya people and more than 140,000 of them was forced to leave Myanmar. Since 2012 an event named Rakhine State Riots, the international community such as the United Nation are putting more attention on such event. Such event has been titled "Ethnic Cleansing" which will be explained in this report.

## Definition of Key Terms

### The Rohingya

The Rohingya is an ethnic group living in the Rakhine State of Myanmar and is the largest Muslim group in Myanmar. (Model UN) Since 1982 The Rohingya have been denied citizenship and considered stateless, at the meanwhile suffering from long-stand marginalization. (Wikipedia)

## Ethnic cleansing

Ethnic cleansing is the act of massive expulsion or killing of numerous members of a particular religious group that is marginalized by the country or city. Such event has been considered as a violation of Human Rights by the United Nations. (Alam)

## Ethnic group

Ethnic group is a community or group that is composed of people that shares similar cultural background or experiences. (Wikipedia)

## Buddhism

Buddhism is a religion originally from the Eastern and central Asia that believes suffering is necessary for ones' life, only wisdom, virtue, and concentration can free one from suffering. (What is Buddhism)

## Genocide

Genocide is the intentional killing of a particular religious, ethnic group or nation.

# Background Information

## Brief summary of the event

Myanmar is a nation with a large number of Muslim minorities in the Buddhist majority. From 1948 to 1963, the Muslims were considered part of the community under Prime Minister U Nu's government; however, the Muslims were excluded from roles in government and military after the Burmese coup d'état in 1962. The government established laws in 1982 that did not grant citizenship to anyone who did not come from Burma before 1827. As mentioned previously, the majority of Myanmar's Muslim community is the Rohingyas people. This group was mostly persecuted by the military regime of Myanmar. Since 1948, 13 military attacks have been carried out against the Rohingyas. These activities included driving the Rohingyas off their territory, burning down

their mosques, looting, incendiary, and sexual assaults of Rohingya Muslims. Most Rohingya people have escaped to Bangladesh.

### Violence against the Rohingya Muslim

There has been evidence that the Myanmar government carried out a genocide amongst the Rohingya people, which have forced approximate half a million Rohingyas to flee to neighboring countries such as Bangladesh and India. Despite of the evidence, the public are still unaware of this situation due to the lack of awareness and lack of attention of this topic. Since 2016 “The Rohingya Persecution in Myanmar” Myanmar’s arm-force and police were ordered to attack the Rohingya people in the country’s northwest region. The Burmese military was accused of ethnic cleansing and genocide by various parties including the United Nation agencies, International Criminal court and so on. There was the use of hate speech and hiring thugs to stir hatred of the Muslims in Myanmar citizens. The Rohingya militants attacked government forces on 25 August 2017, and the security forces of the launched a clearance operation –ethnic cleansing.

### Denying the access to basic human rights

The domestic laws of Myanmar oppress the country's minority groups, particularly the Rohingya. Myanmar's Citizenship Law of 1982 it-self is a systematic discrimination. This systematic discrimination is publicly denying the Rohingya access to the fundamental human rights mentioned below

### The restricted access

As stated, as part of the citizenship law of 1982, it restricts the Rohingya people or the minorities to access the basic human rights such as but not limited to: the restriction to education, health care, employment, land, freedom of movement. The Rohingya people and minorities were often living in such poor condition with low or no income. Most of the children were not educated, due to the poor access and quality of education. The illiteracy rate of Rohingyas is very high, approximately 80%. One critical restriction that affects peoples is the restricted freedom of movement. A travel pass is required for the Rohingya people to enter or exit areas assigned by the government, with limited areas of movement, it is difficult to improve the living quality of such group.

## Key Issues

### Refugee crisis

With 700,000 Rohingya fled Myanmar, over 625,000 escaped to Bangladesh. Rohingya refugees are now living in refugee camps spread across southeastern Bangladesh in shacks made of bamboo and plastic. This refugee crisis includes concerns about food and safety, as outlined below.

#### Food shortage

With the limited income and resources, these groups rely heavily on funds from charities, with limited food supply, shelter and income, the death rate among the group has been increasing, and such situation have not yet been resolved.

#### Sexual violence

With the denial by the Myanmar government regarding the sexual abuse to the Rohingya woman, most of the Rohingya refuge woman are scared to flee back to Myanmar. Some families in order to keep their daughter from such abuse decided to marry off their daughter, hence increase the underage marriage rate.

## Major Parties Involved and their Views

### Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA)

The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army is a Rohingya insurgent group which operates in Rakhine state located in Northern Myanmar led by Ataulah Abu Ammar. This group has made a tremendous kill, normally targeting police officers and security forces. ARSA refused the tag of 'terrorist group' as they claimed they do not attack civilians. This group was crackdown by the military; however, while destroying ARSA, the military have destroyed villages and killed Rohingyas people, resulting in an increase in refugees to Bangladesh.

### Myanmar government

The government refuses to acknowledge their violation of human rights and continues to abuse the Rohingyas people. From their perspective all the attacks seems reasonable and they will not be taking any responsibilities of the attacks.

## Bangladesh

Bangladesh a country which accepts the Rohingyas refugees to enter and announced plans to reallocate the refugee into the Hatiya Island. Realistically, before the government could carry out the plan, Bangladesh may face economic, political, and environmental issues, hence strongly affecting the citizens.

## Timeline of Relevant Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

<b>Date</b> <i>MM/DD/YY</i>	<b>Description of Event</b>
May 2012	Three Rohingyas were accused of raping and murdering 3 Buddhist girls in May 2012, and take part of a mob kill (killing without legal authority) of 10 Muslims. Since then the Muslims and Rakhine resident have been constantly attacking each other
March 2017	The United Nation Human Right council imitate an investigation regarding the illegal abuses to the Rohingya people and other minorities by the Myanmar army
August 2017	The Rohingyas militants attacked police posts in Rakhine as a respond to the attacks by the militaries. The response by the security post have causes a tremendous amount of death, and millions of Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh for shelter.
August 2018	Six generals face trials at the international criminal court due to a report published by the UN. The report accuses Myanmar's military leaders for carrying out genocide, war crimes, and other crimes that violate the human rights of Rohingya people

## Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Efforts were made by the United Nations to resolve such issue, but all of them ultimately resulted in failures. In the month since the beginning of the flow of Rohingya Muslims into Bangladesh, the UN has provided assistance to the Rohingya community in Rakhine State and made strong statements condemning the Burmese authorities; However, Rakhine Buddhists, who blocked the resources and assaulted aid cars, complicated such process. A long-term collaboration between the Myanmar government and the Buddhist community would be required to make this attempt successful.

## Possible Solutions

The longest-lasting alternative to the Rohingya crisis would rely on the capacity of the Rohingya to return home in Myanmar without the having to deal with sanctioned violence. Protection by the law may be crucial to prevent violent from the Myanmar government and Burmese people. The issue at hand is whether the government of Myanmar and the people of Burma are willing to cooperate, and whether there will be reconciliation between the Rohingyas and Myanmar government. This alternative would fit the Rohingya people as well as Bangladesh if violence could be avoided.

Due to the Rohingyas lack of a basic income, they suffer greatly from poverty. This means that aids are necessary to maintain a basic condition of living. Supports from the UN or international community would be necessary. Supports could be in the form of such as but not limited to food supply, educational support, shelter.

As the Rohingya return to their homes, with the help of global humanitarian aid workers and the United Nations, their communities (shelter) need to be rebuilt. Efforts should also be made to accomplish this without conflict between the parties; However, as the Myanmar government denied citizenship to the Rohingyas people, reconciliation process may be difficult or impossible.

Following the return of the Rohingya to their homes in Myanmar, the need of education on topics such as but not limited to: self-protection, human rights. Lessons that would help the students to develop working experiences may also be crucial for long-term development. This is to avoid further discrimination between the youth, ensure the victims have sustainable income in the future and to prevent event such as ethnic cleansing from happening; however, this solution would only be possible if all previous solutions could be achieved.

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## Appendix

<https://fn.se/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Model-UN-Myanmar-2018.pdf>

This document contains information that is crucial about the issue and would be extremely useful when researching for country’s perspective on such issue.