



FORUM: Fourth Committee of the General Assembly (SPECPOL)

QUESTION OF: Evaluating previous political and humanitarian measures undertaken in relation to the Rohingya crisis in order to resolve it

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POSITION: Deputy Chair

“I have no doubt that the Rohingya people have always been one of, if not the, most discriminated people in the world, without any recognition of the most basic rights starting by the recognition of the right of citizenship by their own country – Myanmar.”

Secretary-General António Guterres in press remarks on his visit to Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh – 02 July 2018¹

INTRODUCTION

In August 2017 a part of the Myanmar military (Tatmadaw) burned more than 200 villages in the Rakhine state of a minority, the Rohingya community. Furthermore, they killed thousands of them, raped and sexually abused women and children. It was one of the biggest "cleansing actions" many would call it genocide. As a result, many of the Rohingya people fled out of the country.

While some found refuge in India most of the refugees came to Bangladesh. It began to become the fastest-growing refugee crisis in the world. 2018 in May they were more than 900.000 refugees in the Cox's Bazar (Bangladesh).

The refugee camps are under bad conditions. There is bad access to drinking water and sanity. The malnutrition rates are high and illnesses are spreading fast. Furthermore, the children have poor opportunities to go to school and getting a job seems almost impossible. Moreover, many of them have been traumatized and those emotional wounds will be hard to heal. The question if they will ever return to Myanmar depends on the Myanmar government and population.

If the state will accept and recognize the Rohingya people as citizens and no longer marginalize them there might be a way to return.

Myanmar's government insists, that the humanitarian crisis happened because of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA). The ARSA was attacking approximately 30 police outposts, a military battalion headquarters, and civilians. The ARSA is a rebel group of the Rohingya, which is since 25 August 2017 declared as Terrorist Group by the Myanmar government.

¹<https://news.un.org/en/focus/rohingya-refugee-crisis>



<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/interactive/2017/09/rohingya-crisis-explained-maps-170910140906580.html>

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In Myanmar, the Buddhists make up almost 90% of the citizens. From 1962 until 2011 the Myanmar government was direct or indirectly controlled by the Military. In 2010 they had their first general election under the new constitution.

Until now Myanmar offered the Rohingya National Verification Card (NVC)—which does not provide citizenship. The government also seized and bulldozed dozens of Rohingya villages, destroying evidence of crimes. Authorities began construction over the demolished villages, including new security force bases. Moreover, the government barred the UN fact-finding mission and special rapporteur on Myanmar from the country. Authorities have repeatedly denied that significant security force abuses took place, setting up successive investigations that lacked independence or credibility.²

According to The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the 2019 Joint Response Plan (JRP) for the Rohingya humanitarian crisis in Bangladesh has received only a third (US\$301 million) of the US\$920 million that is needed.³

There has been no movement toward a resolution of the crisis,” Darusman said at the conclusion of a 10-day visit to Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia. “The situation is at a total standstill.”⁴

²All quoted by <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/burma>

³<https://www.unhcr.org/news/briefing/2019/7/5d1f08404/heavy-monsoon-rains-drench-rohingya-sites-bangladesh.html>

⁴The UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar (FFM): <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/hrc/myanmarffm/pages/index.aspx>

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

The Rohingya

The Rohingya is a minority that lived mostly in the Rakhine State of Myanmar. The Rohingya are Muslims even though a small part is Hindu. Myanmar denies their citizenship and therefore the Rohingyas do not enjoy the rights of citizens. In Myanmar, they were excluded from the votes of 2015. Not only they weren't allowed to candidate but also not to vote. There has been systematic discrimination for decades. They have suffered longstanding marginalization and have never been legally recognized as an ethnic group. They suffered and still suffer from terror and attacks as stated in the introduction.

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

Segregation

The policy of keeping one group of people apart from another and treating them differently, especially because of race, sex, or religion

For example, the system of racial segregation that used to exist in South Africa was called apartheid.

Most of the time the group that gets excluded is treated badly.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/segregation>

Marginalization

Marginalization is the process of pushing a particular group or groups of people to the edge of society by not allowing them an active voice, identity, or place in it. Through both direct and indirect processes, marginalized groups may be relegated to a secondary position or made to feel as if they are less important than those who hold more power or privilege in society.

<http://counselingcenter.syr.edu/social-justice/impact-of-marginalization.html>

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Myanmar

Myanmar is still denying any actions against human rights. The government sees The UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar (IFFM) as biased and searches for understanding in the international community. The government pointed out, that it will be them who decide what will happen in their country and no one else.

Bangladesh

As the Islamic neighbor of Myanmar, Bangladesh has accepted more than one million refugees in their territory. Now they stated, that they are not able to accept any more refugees. They saw the Rohingya refugees as temporal refugee seeker and want the situation in Myanmar to get better as soon as possible. So the refugees can go back. To achieve the returning of refugees they have to count on a change in Myanmar politics. Until the situation in Myanmar didn't get better, the

Bangladesh government relies on the support of the UN and NGOs to better the situation in the refugee camps.

China

As an Ally of Myanmar, China strongly supports and defends Myanmar. It sees the solution to the problem of the support of the Rakhine state. If the economy will be better in this part of Myanmar there will be fewer problems. Furthermore, China believes the military should get financial aid to be able to support and control the new development.

A LIST OF ISSUES THAT ARE LIKELY TO ARISE

- Financial sanctions
- The sovereignty of Myanmar
- The laws and constitution of Myanmar
- (the needs to include more rights for minorities)
- Financial aid
- Situations at the refugee camps

QUESTIONS DELEGATES SHOULD CONSIDER

- How is your countries relation to Myanmar, Bangladesh and the Rohingya community? (Maybe also to other important and powerful actors such as China...)
- How and to what extent is your country/organization involved in the issue?
- How does your country treat Rohingya?
- How does your country treat minorities in general?
- How is your organizations/country's opinion about treating minorities?
- How did your country vote in the United Nations General Assembly about resolutions concerning this issue? (See human rights council resolution ...)
- What has your country done in order to solve the issue?
- What measures would your country consider to be effective means aimed at solving the issue?

USEFUL LINKS/SOURCES:

https://www.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/Documents/HRBodies/HR-Council/FFM-Myanmar/A_HRC_39_64.docx&action=default&DefaultItemOpen=1

<https://www.iom.int/rohingya-response>

https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/country_appeal/file/iom-cxb-appeal.pdf

<https://news.un.org/en/focus/rohingya-refugee-crisis>

<https://www.un.org/sg/sites/www.un.org.sg/files/atoms/files/Myanmar%20Report%20-%20May%202019.pdf>

<https://www.unocha.org/rohingya-refugee-crisis>

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/06/05/rohingya-refugees-theres-no-return-sight>

<http://rakhine.unionenterprise.org/>

<https://www.mercycorps.org/articles/bangladesh/rohingya-refugee-crisis-quick-facts>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/oct/24/rohingya-genocide-is-still-going-on-says-top-un-investigator>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/mar/01/rohingya-crisis-bangladesh-says-it-will-not-accept-any-more-myanmar-refugees>

<https://www.msf.org/bangladesh-rohingya-crisis-update-may-2019>

https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2009014/burma_bangladesh_fs03_04-12-2019.pdf

Wikipedia

CIA Factbook