



General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 August 2022

English only

Human Rights Council

Fifty-first session

12 September–7 October 2022

Agenda item 2

**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the
High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

Written statement* submitted by Partners For Transparency, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[21 August 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



The Human Rights Violations Against the Rohingya and Other Minorities in Myanmar

Introduction

The Rohingya Muslim minority is still subjected to a wide range of systematic human rights violations by the Myanmar authorities and continues to suffer under the tragic and extremely difficult living conditions in the refugee camps containing them in Bangladesh, despite the passage of nearly five years since the widespread and systematic campaign of violence launched by the Myanmar army in August 2017 against them, which forced over a million Rohingya Muslims to leave their homes in Myanmar's Rakhine State, seeking safe haven in neighboring Bangladesh. In light of the above, Partners for Transparency presents in this intervention an overview of the gross human rights violations that members of the Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar are subjected to at the hands of the authorities and highlights the tragic humanitarian conditions suffered by the Rohingya refugees inside the refugee camps in Bangladesh.

Grave human rights violations against the Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar

Members of the Rohingya Muslim minority continue to be subjected to widespread human rights violations, some of which may amount to crimes against humanity, at the hands of the Myanmar military and security forces. In this context, Partners for Transparency noted that the Rohingya Muslims are currently being subjected to ongoing persecutions and killings by the Myanmar military, especially since the February 2021 military coup in Myanmar. According to reliable statistics, since last year's coup, at least 1,900 killings by the military have been reported, including members of the Muslim Rohingya minority⁽¹⁾. These incidents escalated yet again on 20 May when the Myanmar army set fire to the homes and mosque in Innywa Village, Kathar District, Northern Sagaing Region, leading to the death and injury of many people. A Muslim girl was reportedly shot and killed by in Yangon in a separate event.

Moreover, a large group of the Rohingya Muslim minority is currently suffering from arbitrary arrest and detention and severe restrictions on movement. According to reliable international reports, Myanmar authorities have detained over 135,000 Rohingya and Kaman Muslims arbitrarily and indefinitely in Rakhine State for a decade. In this context, Partners for Transparency noted that the wave of arrests against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar has clearly been exacerbated after the February 2021 military coup. In May and June 2022, for example, the authorities in Myanmar arrested more than 300 Rohingya for traveling outside their communities. Hundreds of them were sentenced to prison terms of up to two years based on false allegations of harboring activists resisting the coup or for exercising their fundamental right to freedom of movement outside their communities.

Despite living in Myanmar for many generations, the Rohingya are not recognized as an official ethnic group and have been denied citizenship since 1982 under the 1982 Citizenship Act, making them the world's largest stateless population. This has increased their suffering from discrimination in accessing all services and enjoying civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to education, health care, and the right to vote and run for elections. No member of the Rohingya Muslim minority has ever been allowed to enter university in Rakhine State until now, and they are also prohibited from obtaining bank loans and loans, getting personal IDs and exercising their right to vote and to form political parties⁽²⁾.

In addition to the above, the Rohingya refugees are still subjected to the worst forms of forced displacement and forced migration at the hands of the Myanmar army and security forces in extremely dangerous conditions. They jeopardize their lives while trying to flee to neighboring countries to escape violence and systematic persecution in Myanmar, which puts them at risk of death and drowning. According to reliable international reports, since the beginning of 2022, at least 630 people from the Muslim Rohingya minority have desperately attempted to flee the country through sea voyages across the Bay of Bengal to escape the

systematic violence in Myanmar, but many of them have lost their lives in the journey. On May 21, 2022, for example, a boat carrying a group of Rohingya refugees capsized near the coast of the town of Patheingyi, south of Rakhine State, claiming the lives of 17 people, the majority of them are children⁽³⁾.

The Tragic Humanitarian Conditions inside the Rohingya Refugee Camps in Bangladesh

Over the past five years, the Rohingya minority has been constantly flowing as refugees and migrants to the neighboring country of Bangladesh as a result of ongoing violence and systematic ethnic cleansing by the Myanmar army and security forces until their number reached over million. The Rohingya refugees live in refugee camps in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char in Bangladesh in tragic and very difficult conditions. Currently, about 1.2 million Rohingya live in refugee camps in the Cox's Bazar region of Bangladesh – the largest group of refugee camps in the world, with only 10.7 square meters per person. In addition to overcrowding, refugees suffer from a lack of food supplies and clean drinking water. According to the latest statistics, over 56 percent of Rohingya refugee families find it very difficult to access water sources and over 86 percent of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh suffer from extreme poverty and hunger since 2020, and one in four Rohingya children in Kutupalong refugee camp suffer from malnutrition. Besides, more than 80 percent of Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar camps are completely dependent on WFP food aid to survive⁽⁴⁾ and are currently denied access to adequate education services, as the Bangladesh government has imposed a ban on public and private education for Rohingya refugees, and issued a decision in December 2021 to close all special education programs and facilities that were operating in the camps, claiming that these facilities were illegal and that they did not obtain official work permits, which put the education of about 30,000 children benefiting from these programs at risk.

Recommendations:

In light of the above, Partners for Transparency presents its recommendations to all stakeholders concerned with the human rights situation of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar as follows:

Recommendations to the international community:

- Stopping the flow of weapons and funds to the military council in Myanmar and imposing sanctions on all institutions supporting the army;
- Improving the living conditions of Rohingya refugees in camps in Bangladesh and avoid forcibly returning them due to the exacerbation of human rights violations inside Myanmar;
- Putting pressure on the army to stop its continuing repressive military campaigns against the people of Myanmar, including the Muslim Rohingya minority.

Recommendations to the Myanmar authorities:

- Ending all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law against members of the Muslim Rohingya minority;
- Conducting prompt, independent and impartial investigations into all allegations of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law;
- Amending the 1982 Citizenship Law, and restoring citizenship to the Rohingya;
- Immediately releasing the Rohingya Muslims detained in the camps, and figuring out sustainable solutions for the displaced.

- (1) <https://bit.ly/3QsG9rS>
- (2) <https://bit.ly/39wESPF>
- (3) <https://bit.ly/3HBpDS8>
- (4) <https://bit.ly/3JQRmOf>